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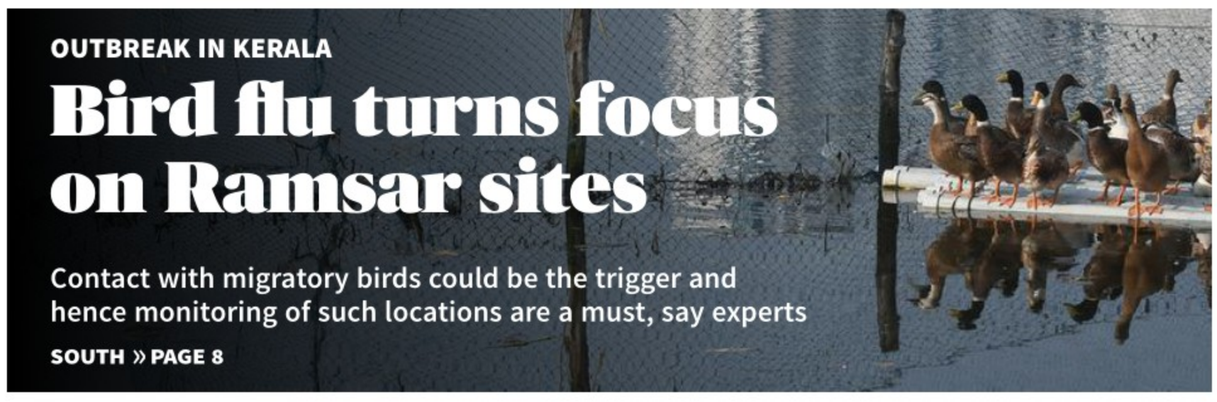

OUTBREAK IN KERALA

Bird flu turns focus on Ramsar sites

Contact with migratory birds could be the trigger and hence monitoring of such locations are a must, say experts

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The escalation on the India-China border

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Author Anuradha Roy looks back at her work

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Suryakumar's ton sets up India's series win

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Roots connect a Meghalaya village

A farmer takes forward the State's traditional practice of building root bridges and connects two areas across Umkar river in Cherrapunjee

A. M. Jigeesh
CHERRAPUNJEE

Hally War was just 10 when an idea took root in his mind. Seeing his parents' daily struggle to cross a river to reach their farm, little Hally decided to build a bridge, nay a root bridge. Sixty years later, his creation over the Umkar river in Siej village near Cherrapunjee, also known as Sohra, in the undulating East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya has grown into a living marvel.

As is the traditional practice, he used the roots of the rubber fig (*Ficus elastica*), learning the techniques to mould and model the roots into a bridge with the help of bamboo from his grandfather and other elders in the family, Mr. War, nearing 70, reminisces.

Following years of hard work, the living root bridge has grown to two decks, one stretching to 20 metres and the other 15 metres. Mr. War's family now helps him grow it further. "People, including my parents, were finding it difficult to cross the river to go to the farms on the other side, particularly when it rained," Mr. War says. "It took 30 years to make the bridge strong so that people could use it to cross the river." He charges tourists a nominal amount, which is used to protect the bridge.

The root bridge over the Umkar river in Siej village, Meghalaya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meghalaya is known for its root bridges, locally known as *jingkieng jri*. Many bridges across the State are over a century old.

Daphisha Gabriela Pyngrope, manager of Nomads Adventure Shillong, an organisation that promotes living root bridges, says the Khasi-Jaintia people, like most indigenous tribes, have a sense of oneness with nature.

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NEARBY

Kunchitigas set Jan. 31 deadline

BENGALURU
Leaders of the Kunchitiga communityhave set a deadline of January 31 to the Centre for its inclusion in OBC list for seeking reservation in jobs.
» PAGE 7

Decks cleared for suburban railway

BENGALURU
One of the major hurdles for execution of the Bengaluru suburban rail project has been cleared. The SWR and KRIDE signed an agreement for transfer of railway lands.
» PAGE 5

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Key socio-political outfits in Ladakh reject Centre's plan, harden stand on statehood

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Two top socio-political bodies of Ladakh, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), on Saturday rejected the high-powered committee constituted by the Union Home Ministry to ensure protection of land and jobs for the people of the Union Territory.

The bodies hardened their stand on four key points, which include granting statehood and special status under the Sixth Schedule of Constitution.

The decision was taken during an emergency meeting of the LAB and the KDA in Jammu after studying the recent announcement made by the Ministry on the formation of the committee led by Union Minister of State Nityanand Rai, "to resolve the outstanding issues of Ladakh".

A protest in Kargil demanding statehood for Ladakh. FILE PHOTO

Sets conditions

"The LAB and the KDA decided not to accept the formation of the high-powered committee and attend any meeting conducted under the aegis of the committee as the said committee has not been mandated to discuss issues raised by the LAB and the KDA," the twin organisations, comprising religious and political parties from Ladakh, said in a joint statement.

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Man at the centre of Air India row held

Jagriti Chandra
Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday arrested Shankar Mishra, 34, who urinated on a senior citizen aboard an Air India flight in November, on a day the airline's CEO Campbell Wilson expressed regret over the incident and the airline's poor handling of it.

Mr. Mishra was arrested in Bengaluru after the police deployed four teams across three cities. He was later brought to Delhi.

While the police sought further extension of his custody, a Delhi court on Saturday sent him to judicial custody for 14 days.

He told the police that he did not remember anything about the incident as he had "blacked out" during the flight.

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Nearly half of govt. quota dental seats vacant

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Nearly half of all government quota dental seats allotted to Karnataka by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for the 2022-23 academic year, are vacant after the conclusion of NEET-2022 counselling, indicating the low demand for dental courses in the State. Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has now returned these seats to the respective colleges.

NTA had allotted 2,810 undergraduate (UG) and 941 postgraduate (PG) dental seats, totalling to 3,751 seats. Of them, only 1,425 UG seats and 716 PG seats have been taken by students leaving 1,385 UG seats and 225 PG seats totalling 1,610 seats – 43% – vacant. Relatively, the vacancy rate among medical seats is far lower, at around 12.6%.

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Lizol Citrus Surface Cleaner Refill 1.8 L Flat 15% Off MRP ₹350 ₹298
Vim Dishwash Liquid Gel Lemon 900 ml Refill Pouch Flat 15% Off MRP ₹215 ₹183
Hit Flying Insect & Mosquito Killer Spray 700 ml Flat 25% Off MRP ₹390 ₹293
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Hard at work: Sajid Ayub, centre, and other craftsmen making copper bells at his workshop in Zura village in Kutch district, Gujarat.

Hot take: A worker pushing a work-in-progress bell into the fire.

Bells and whistles

The craftsmen of Zura, famed for handmade copper bells, cater to both traditional needs and a global market with innovations such as wind chimes and festive decor

Vijay Soneji
soneji.v@thehindu.co.in

Zura – a speck-on-the-map village close to the India-Pakistan International Border, in Kutch district of Gujarat – is home to some of the finest bell-making workshops in Asia. Award-winning artisans and craftsmen live here, working with their hands to produce copper bells that are in demand in India and abroad.

The tinkle of copper bells draws in visitors to the cosy workshop of Jan Mamad, away from the cold winds blowing on the plains. He has been in the business of crafting the bells, a skill he inherited, for the past 25 years. He also has a deep love for music. "It is the special sound of the bells that makes them unique. I work on a bell for hours before I get the right sound," he says.

Today, the market for his bells has expanded well beyond Kutch, and they are exported across the globe. Jan Mamad's team is constantly exploring new possibilities with the bells, while preserving their core identity. Many members of his family join him in fulfilling orders on time.

This craft of making metal bells (*ghantadi* as they are known in Kutch) is said to be over 1,000 years old. The original use of the bells was to identify and locate cattle let out for grazing.

Today, the use of these traditional bells has gone beyond such simple needs: they are hung in archways; used to make wind chimes; and added to festive decor. But the bells are still handmade and that involves a lot of skill, says Sajid Ayub, another copper bell-maker from Zura.

There are 14 sizes of bells, and they are customised to suit different animals. Size 0 is the smallest and, size 13 the largest. The bells are made of iron and coated primarily with copper and brass. They are made from scrap iron sheets repeatedly compressed to bring the requisite shape. The metal parts are locked into place by expert hands without any kind of welding. They are then coated with powdered copper. Finally, a wooden piece, the gong, is attached to the centre of the bell.

Afsil, the 23-year-old son of Jan Mamad, has just completed his Master's degree in commerce, but his passion is to be a copper bell craftsman.

"I love this art and want to continue working on it and even pass it on to my next generation. I will, through experimentation and innovation, see how to take this to an even more global level," says Afsil.

Joint effort: A member of Sajid Ayub's family mixing wet clay with cotton, a part of the bell-making process.

Final destination: A cow with a copper bell around its neck in the grasslands of Zura.

Tur dal rates likely to rise as downpour and wilt disease claim crops in three districts

This is the second blow that growers of red gram in Kalaburagi, Bidar, and Yadgir districts have received during the season. The crop was cultivated on over 4.8 lakh hectares in Kalaburagi, however, on 1.8 lakh hectares, it was washed away in heavy rains in August-September last year

Kumar Buradikatti and Jahnavi T. R.
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

The pockets of consumers might get pinched in the upcoming weeks as incessant rains and wilt disease have caused crop loss of red gram or tur dal in major cultivation areas, including Kalaburagi, which is known as the tur dal bowl of Karnataka, Bidar and Yadgir districts.

Although stable at ₹105-110 right now, the traders said that the prices might go up by 20% after Sankranti festival which is on January 15. According to them, both quality and quantity of the gram has been affected at markets.

Disturbing scenes of dried up red gram crop on vast tracts of agricultural fields owing to the wilt disease can be seen everywhere across Kalaburagi, Bidar and Yadgir districts. FILE PHOTO

Second blow

Disturbing scenes of dried up red gram crop on vast tracts of agricultural fields owing to the wilt disease could be seen everywhere across the rural areas in these three districts. The crop, which looked healthy till the flowering stage, caught the disease at the time of pod-setting. The farmers, who were expecting good yields and clearing their previous debts, put all efforts, including frequent spraying of pesticides, in their desperate bid to save the crop. However, their relentless efforts went in vain.

This is the second blow that growers of red gram in these three districts received during the season. The crop was cultivated on over 4.8 lakh hectares in Kalaburagi district, of which 1.8 lakh hectares were washed away in heavy rains in August-September last year. Now, as per an estimation of the Agriculture Department, the crop on around 69,000 hectares has been destroyed owing to wilt disease.

Crop delay

The traders in Bengaluru reported that they had heard that there was a crop delay of 1-1.5 months this time and there is a collective crop damage of at least 25%. The delay in arrival of tur from other States like Maharashtra has added to the supply crunch.

"By this time, usually we would have at least 10-12 varieties on the shelves, but this time we do not even have one or two varieties. The arrivals are less and traders are not satisfied with the quality," said Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, Vice President FKCCI and a food grain merchant.

He added that while the price of tur usually goes down during the season, this time it might not be a possibility. "Price escalation might happen any day. If the gram is not thicker in size, the quality is affected and then we might have to rely on imported stock. However, these varieties will neither have aroma nor taste." Currently, the prices have remained stable as the gram from previous season is still selling in the markets.

Another problem the traders have noticed this year is that of excessive moisture in the dal.

"There is somewhat a decent amount of arrivals, but there is too much moisture. It will not be good for cooking and no one would like to buy it. Everyone asks for dry dal," said a trader of Bangalore Traders in Yeshwantpur.

Widespread protests

The crop destruction triggered widespread protests across the three districts. Farmers taking to the streets at taluk centres and district headquarters demanding proper compensation for the destroyed crop, has been the order of the day for the last couple of months. Some of the growers even went to Belagavi with the samples of destroyed crop and staged demonstrations outside Suvarna Vidhana Soudha where the winter session of the State Legislature was underway. However, their agitation caught little attention from the legislators. The desperate farmers have now called Kalaburagi Bandh to be observed on January 17 to draw the attention of the State government.

Minor detained for sending hoax bomb threat email to school

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is high time that the schools conduct awareness campaigns on cyber safety and cyber law, said Lakshman Nimbargi, DCP (West)

The Basaveshwara Nagar police on Saturday detained a minor boy for sending a bomb threat email to a private school in Rajajinagar from his mother's iPad on Thursday night.

Tension gripped the school on Friday as the management read the mail, which stated that there was going to be an explosion at lunch time, and informed the police before evacuating the school and declaring a holiday. The police along with a bomb disposal squad reached the spot and checked the premises, and confirmed it was a hoax mail.

Based on a complaint by the school management, the police registered a case and tracked down the boy through the IP address. The boy, 14, is a class VIII student of another school, and has many friends in the school that he sent the threat email to.

The police, who recorded the boy's statement, said he Googled for the school's email ID and sent the mail without realising its consequences. The boy will be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board.

"It is high time that the schools conduct awareness campaigns on cyber safety and cyber law, since all students from the age of 10 onwards access computer, Internet and smartphones," Lakshman Nimbargi, DCP (West) said.

In July last year, in a similar case, the police tracked down a hoax bomb threat email to a class X student of the same school in R.R. Nagar. He had sent the mail from his father's laptop to get class tests postponed.

Founder's Day at REVA University

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

REVA University on Friday celebrated 'Founder's Day' on its premises. The annual one-day event was held to mark the birthday of Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor, REVA University.

According to a release, speaking on the occasion, Chancellor Dr. P. Shyama Raju, said, REVA university students should be job providers by the end of 2027. The REVA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 was bestowed upon actor late Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar, actor Sahukar Janaki, and Scientist Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Praveen Kumar V. K, S/o. Mr. Krishnan Kutty Orrupakayil is intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners Mr. Jitendra Kumar Singh S/o. Sri. Sheo Kumar Singh, residing at A/201, Nikita Apartment, Bomandaya Pada Military Road, Andheri (E) Mumbai-59.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment bearing Flat No. A-303, measuring 1120 Sq. Ft. of SBA in the Third Floor of the apartment Building "C.V.K. MEENAKSHI ELEGANCE" constructed in the Land bearing Sy. No. 23, situated at Klenagrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on:
East by : Lands of Sy. No. 24, West by : Lands of Sy. No. 27, North by : Road, South by : Lands of Sy. No. 27.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY,
ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR,
Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main,
4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala,
Bangalore-560068,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 07-01-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are large are hereby informed that, my client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder. The owner **Sri. Chandrappa.V** represent that there is/are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property and he has not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or part thereof in any manner and they have not entered into any Agreement of Sale / Memorandum of Understanding etc., with any other person/s, Company/ Bank/ Institution/s. Any person/s, Company/ Bank/ Institution/s having objection/s or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of property **No.8.** Katha No.894 Assessment No.30/5, carved out of Sy. No.30/5 Situated at **Chikkanagamangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring East to West 67 Feet and North to South 36 Feet totally measuring 2412 Sq.Ft and bounded as :

East: Remaining portion of the property bearing Sy. No.30/5; West: Property bearing No.2; North: Nanjundappa and Ramachandra; and South: Road:

RAGHUVEERA.R, Advocate,
No. 439, 5th Main, 6th Avenue,
Teachers Colony, Koramangala 1st Block
Bangalore - 560 034. Mob: 7259637902.
Bangalore Date : 07-01-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that My Client **Sri Varun.S** is intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from the owner **Sri.B.R.Vijaykumar** if any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the Schedule Property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your claims, within **10 days** from the date of Publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by any body and my Client will proceed for completion of Sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of the **Site No.5,** New Municipal No.01, BBMP PID No.107-W0042-35 (earlier BBMP PID No.20-5-1), formed in Sy.No.31/1, situated at **1st 'D' Main Road, Shivanagar, Rajajinagar 2nd Division, Bangalore City Corporation**, measuring : East to West : 34 Feet & North to South: 40 Feet in all measuring 1360 sqft. along with Building.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor,
5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar
2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078. M : 9916343921

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby notified that, my client **S. Muniraju** S/o Subbanna R/o 1105/6, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Mathru Extension, Attur Layout, Bengaluru North Taluk, present Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064. Intend to purchase **Item No.1 and Item No.2** of the Schedule Property described below from its owner **Smt. Sowbhagya Ananthaswamy** W/o Ananthaswamy G.V, R/o No. 172, 7th Main, 2nd D Cross, BSK 1st Stage, Nagendra Block, Bengaluru-560050. If anybody having any title or interest over the Schedule properties, contact me with all documents in support of their claim ***within 10 days*** from this publication, suppose no claim is made by any person within 10 days, my client will purchase the schedule property treating that there are no claims in respect of schedule properties.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1: Property bearing Site No. 60 carved out of survey No. 16/2 of Chikkabommasandra Village, Mathru Layout, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore-64 present BBMP Khatha No. 16/2/60, measuring 30x40 feet and bounded on:
East by: Site No. 59, **West by:** Site No.61, **North by:** Site No.89, **South by:** Road.

Item No.2: Property bearing Site No. 61 carved out of survey No. 16/2 of Chikkabommasandra Village, Mathru Layout, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore-64 present BBMP Khatha No. 16/2/61, measuring 30x40 feet and bounded on:
East by: Site No. 60, **West by:** Site No.62, **North by:** Site No.88, **South by:** Road.

Sd/-
N.D. Onkarappa, Advocate
#1619, 3rd Main, Judicial Layout,
G.K.V.K. Post, Bengaluru-560065.
Mob: 9535679680.
Email: ndonkarappa@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Jitendra Chauhan, S/o. Mr. Harish Narayan Chauhan is intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Mr. Smt. Saraswathamma W/o. Late. Ramachandrappa, rep by her GPA Holders viz., 1. Sri. P. Sunil Reddy S/o. Sri. P. Subbarami Reddy Residing at Flat No. 404, Sai Srinivasam Apt., Road No. 4, Doctor Road, Near Venkateswara Temple, Telangana & 2. Sri. Vishnu Kiran Kasa S/o. Sri. K. V. Subba Reddy Residing at Flat No. 304, Shravanthi Grace Apt., Hulimavu Gate, Bannergatta Road, Bangalore- 560 076.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Vacant Site No.78, Panchayath Khata No. 3539/78, PID No. 150200102200224190 in Layout Known as "PAVAN'S GOKULAM" vide approved Plan No. APA/LAO/70/2019-2020 dated 20-08-2022, formed in converted land bearing old Sy. No. 122, New Sy. No. 122/2, situated at Kuthaganahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk Measuring East to West 9.14 Mtrs. and North to South 15.24 Mtrs. in all measuring 139.29 Square Mtrs. and bounded on: East by : Site No. 58, West by : 9 M Road, North by : Site No. 77, South by : Site No. 79.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY,
ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR,
Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main,
4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala,
Bangalore-560068,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 07-01-2023

FORM B
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF E-INFRA STRUCTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

Sl No	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of Corporate Debtor	Welworth Software Private Limited
2.	Date of Incorporation of Corporate Debtor	03/05/2005
3.	Authority under which Corporate Debtor is Incorporated/ Registered	Registrar of Companies, Karnataka
4.	Corporate Identity Number (CIN) of Corporate Debtor	U72200KA2005PTC036221
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Debtor	ROCKLINE CENTRE, No. 54, 3rd Floor, Richmond Road, Bangalore KA 560025 IN
6.	Date of closure of insolvency resolution process	30th November 2022.
7.	Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	30th November 2022.
8.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as Liquidator	Narayana Kamma, IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N01072/2020-2021/13429
9.	Address and e-mail of the liquidator, as registered with the Board	Narayana Kamma, E 1807, Brigade Gateway, 26/1, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Malleshwaram West, Bangalore. 560055. Phone : 9844283398 Email.liquidator.welworth@gmail.com
10	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	Narayana Kamma, E 1807, Brigade Gateway, 26/1, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Malleshwaram West, Bangalore. 560055. Phone : 9844283398 Email.liquidator.welworth@gmail.com
11.	Last date for submission of claims	1st February 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench has ordered the commencement of liquidation of Welworth Software Private Limited on 30th November 2022.*(Copy of the Order received on 3rd January 2023)*
The stakeholders of Welworth Software Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof, on or before 1st February 2023, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with the proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Date:7th January 2023 Narayana Kamma
Place: Bangalore The Liquidator of Welworth Private Limited

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UCO Bank's 80th Foundation Day

The Hindu Bureau
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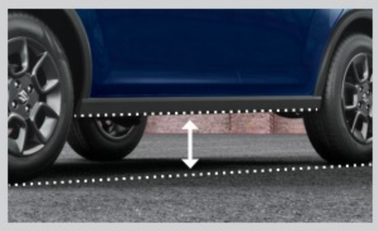

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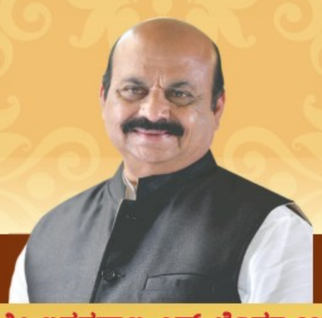
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✔ **5'5" HEIGHT,28 years,Very fair, BTech(CSE)+MBA, HR Manager in company. Dhobi girl. Contact:09667459401**

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CSI CHRISTIAN girl 34,167cm Civil Servant (IPOS) working in Karnataka. Seeking any Christian Central Government Group "A"Service like IRS,AAS,IPOS. Contact:9496202446

HINDU–SC, 09/09/1991, 5'5", B.Tech., ME. (CSE), Gazzetted Officer (Govt. of India), seeks Officer groom (Caste no bar), CT–9463315834

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL @ Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/Chevva Dosam Seeks grooms Nair /menon Family:9840944880/ 9447696424

HINDU, EZHAVA Girl 28/152cm, Chatayam, Fair, Phd in Human Genetics, looking for qualified Chennai settled grooms. Mob:9626417397

NAIR GIRLS 35 MD, Makayiram and 30 MBBS, Makam, both working in Delhi, parents settled in Kerala. Contact: 9434289192 (not bureau)

NAMBIAR, 42, MDS, Employed in US, seek well educated , US based match. 9444000825. chalil_50@yahoo.co.in

TAMIL

GOD FEARING well to do Groom for a God fearing, fair, beautiful , bride Nadar Christian, MBA (UK) , aged 31 from well settled family, employed in a Foreign Embassy in Chennai. Parents Contact. 95000 27027

RC CHRISTIAN 39/157cm; B.E; M.B.A; MNC Manager, re–marriage from educated & settled family seeks professionally qualified teetotaller groom less than or equals to 44yrs from TN Christian family. Ph 9842260597.

SEEKING Protestant born again and qualified groom for a Christian born again girl- 28yrs, 152cm BDS, MPH: currently working in Delhi. Contact: 98940 40344, 98954 55595.

SC/AD CSI 38/165 M.Sc., M.P.H, Working as Consultant in Word Bank, Washington DC Seeks Suitable Groom, Well qualified working in USA. Caste Religion No Bar. 98844 39700.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

BRIDEGROOM WELL educated well settled age 31 to 35, for a Nadar Christian girl MBA fair, beautiful from a rich family ,working in a Multinational Company with good salary in Chennai. Parents Contact. 9790787919.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GIRL, MD Anesthesiology, 33, 165 fair, pretty, well mannered and cultured, well placed, Chennai based doctor family. Father doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. MD, MS, MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

ENGINEER

MATCH FOR Smart, Fair, Slim Nai Girl 27/5ft 4inch M.Arch. Working in New Delhi. Preferred Doctor/Engineer/Officer. WhatsApp: 9319928449

THE HINDU
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TAMIL

SAIVAPILLAI, 31/171 Good Looking, M.E, MNC,Free Lancing 6L/p/a very Fair seeks Groom Abroad or India Pure Veg,Well Qualified or B.E, Income 1L/p/m.Sub–casteNoBar (VEG) only Ct: 9940047272/ 9443282325/ ragavan2207@gmail.com

SOZHIYA VELLALAR 26/161 Kettai B.Arch MNC Hydrabad, Seeks Groom with Good Job, Pillai/Mudaliar 9443471829

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, 162cm,Good looking well Settled Family Seeks Alliance CNB, Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

DKV 28/167 Fair BE. TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr / Er. Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

HINDU SAIVA Pillai Bride, 1987 Born, Magham, Veg, Beautiful, U.S. Educated, Senior Economist seeks Groom aged 36-39yrs, Smart, Veg, Highly Qualified, settled Professional preferebly based in Mumbai. Contact: 9994022477

TAMIL

VEG GIRL Telugu Karthigai 39/156 MCom, B.Ed. Chennai Seeks employed Reputed Co Groom. Caste No Bar – Preferred BC, MBC. Ct: 8056012713

HINDU DEVAR 36, BE, 166cm, USA Monthly Income:3,00,000 Seeks Groom.Caste No Bar. 8939691888 / 9710093999

47/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI, M.com, MBA, Seeks Qualified Unmarried Below 50, Clean habits, CNB. Ct: 9176774676/ 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

✔ **PILLAI/ MUDALIAR** B.E/ Kettai / MNC 25 Reputed Business family seeks Alliance Ph : 98400 93322

SC HINDU 33/172 Manager Govt Bank Divorced (Unconsummated Marriage) . Contact: 8939574245

CHETTIAR 27/163 BE Remarriage Ch seeks Prof/Business Groom CNB Chennai. Geetham 9884858014

SPIRITUALLY RENOWNED person seeks alliance for his daughter/ SC/ AD/ 30/ M.Tech/ Bank Officer/ Revathy/ Meenam/ Innocent Divorcee, lived together for 18 days, Divorcees excuse, caste no bar, suitable grooms apply. saadhusundar@gmail.com

CHETTIAR/ MUDALIAR: 27/ 173, V Fair, B.Tech, Affluent Business Family, Coimbatore, seeks suitable groom from similar background Ct. 8939012419 , 9994915406

HINDU NADAR Girl, age 28, Ht 168 cms, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, M.E., Asst.Professor, Upper middle class seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Contact: 9626515511.

DOCTOR MBBS 28/163 good looking, Devendra Kulam working in Private Hospital, Chennai seeks Alliance from Doctor/other Profns CNB. 8668118107

SC Devendrakula vellalar 1990 Aug born, Thulam visakam, BTech IT employee seeks well educated groom from same caste. Ph: 9500984970, 9790925208

SEEKING ALLIANCE only from Hindu Vanniyar Doctor grooms (M.B.B.S, MD/MS).Girl MBBS,MS (Opthal) Age 31 yrs.(May 1991)Poorattathi 2 pathamContact 9486726066 Chennai

MUDALIAR 30/165, Beautifull,MBBS,MS ,Surgeon,Ramachandara,1200000.PA,Elite Fmly, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

Good looking 5'7", Architect, 26 years from Chennai/ Bangalore upper middle-class family looking for well educated settled smart groom between 27-31years from affluent Hindu family (non-veg)
Caste no bar
Please call or what's app
7401126915
9840087994

BRIDE GROOM WANTED TAMIL MUSLIM
Age 42/161, B.Com., Fair., Divorcee No Issues. Seeking Bridegroom, Age Below 47 years
Ph: 7299780379

GROOM WANTED
VISHWAKARMA (Intercaste Hindu Parents) Smart, Fair, Pretty Girl - Kumbam, Sadhyam, 29/5'.6', BE-ECE, Software Analyst in MNC - 10 L, P.A. Seeks Well Educated, Employed Groom, Any Caste in Hindu.
Ct: 95000 86129
rado5009@yahoo.com

TAMIL

SAIVA PILLAI 1974 B.Sc MA seeks Educated and well settled Groom with good family background. 9894548428

TAMIL IYER Vadamal Srivatsam Hastham Age 29 58kg 165cm M.S.(CS) Job:Bay Area, CA,USA.Seeks Groom from Same Area or Relocation Ct:7358206848

TELUGU

NAIDU 32, Well Settled, B Tech, MBA, MNC veg, fair & Pretty seeks equally Qualified groom, Contact: 9941348103

NAIDU 41/150cm Uthirattathi, PH.D, Asst.Prof, first Marriage,seeks suitable Groom. sub sect No Bar. 7358166806

SC-Madiga 38, 5'5 MSc Bio-Tech, Working in HSBC, Salary 12L, 1st Marriage, seeks Qualified Groom Contact: 9966602684, 9246205517

NAIDU : 24/160,V.Fair,B.E, Amazon, Engineer, Chennai, Only Daughter, Elite Family – Seeks Groom – Eng / Business / Doctor – 8925019776

BALIJA , BE ,MBA (IIM),26/160/22 LPA very fair girl working in top MNC company looking for suitable match from working Professional. Groom from well educated family, teetotaller with clean habits. contact : 9444611307

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ALLIANCE INVITED for a 46 Year old ,172 cm, 68kg, manager, divorcee 1 month marriage, CNB, no demands Email : hereiam_hi@yahoo.com Ph: 9677776525

DIRECTOR, CEO, Tamil, Malayalam, Born Again Christian, Divorcee with 14 years Daughter, Rich & Affluent family 56 years, India/USA, seeks suitable Director CXO profile around 40Yrs. CT: selsmr@yahoo.co.in, 9600918842

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29 ,175 cm, Handsome, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K., seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23–27 from an educated family. Caste or language no bar. Send bio, photo to indirapriya1968@gmail.com, 8328645024. No brokers.

S.SPL–GASTRO DOCTOR (Hindu– Tamil – Kongu Vellalar / Dec 91/ 6'1/ V.fair / Hastham) seeks a tall, v.fair, slim, MD–MS / CA / PG bride (26–28 years). Parents: 9342529547

MUSLIM 59 Officer 1.5 LPM Independent Single Healthy needs an Independent Educated Healthy Single – No Bars – No Mediation 8125651881

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

A WELL employed Kerala muslim boy Bangalore based sr.engg, 32yrs seeking alliance from the muslim girls.Ph no : 9487885999, 9786509095 (Wapp)

MENON YOUTH 45/181 Divorced, Financially sound, B.Tech, MBA, FMSPI working in MNC at Kochi as Deputy General Manager. 9633001187.

NRI

✔ **Urdu Muslim, Good looking, Working in Canada. Seeks Beautiful, fair, slim, professional wife living in Canada or U.S.A. Contact: farhathmahjabeen@gmail.com, whatsup Mobile# +16476672444**

TAMIL MUDALIAR (CNB) 31 / 180cm Tech Analyst at Facebook UK earning 100K GBP seeks Bride living in UK. +91 9840856664

TAMIL

TAMIL RC Vellala 50/ 175cm unmarried M.Com Chief accountant Wheatish settled in Hongkong, visiting Chennai Jan, seeks graduate girl ready to relocate. Mb: 9840784555

INTERCASTE (BC&FC), 44y/5'7", IT, BE MS, Divorcee (Short lived marriage; No kids), Clean habits. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9790911710

VELLALAR POOSAM 42yrs, Never Married, Manager, MNC, Chennai 1.5Lpm, seeks suitable Graduate Employed unmarried Hindu bride below 37yrs. Cont:9600369231 (any time) / 9739751091(between 7-9am&pm only)

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 26/180, Coimbatore,B.Com., MBA Manager D-Mart Tirupur,Rs. 4.5 Lakhs p.a, seeks suitable eduacted bride from same caste.CT: 97913-05223, 97917-15531.

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Cheif Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First marriage seeks educated Bride. Ct:9487272897

MUKULATHOOR BOY 36/171 Handsome Own Business Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride from Decent Family. Caste No Bar. Ph: 9884899749, 7358561070 Email: mr_bose55@yahoo.com

PREFERRED BRAHMIN girl, Fair & handsome boy (koushigam brahmin) 5 ft 9 inch (08/04/1991 6:54 pm) ME CS (PhD) wrk: Asst Prof kalasalingam Univ (10LPA) Madurai Ph 9840780825.

HINDU YADAVA 26/179 Handsome B.Tech working MNC, 30LPA. very shortlived first marriage only 6 months, Father PSU officer. CNB 7904627469

CNB, 33 / 182 M.E Handsome Govt 6.6 PA Meesham / Ashwini Seeks Suitable Girl Ct: 9962533302 / 9894789830

RC VELLALA Mudaliar: 30/Handsome,B.Tech, MBA, Textile Business, Chennai, Only son, Well settled Family – Seeks Bride Any Degree – 9840573419

HINDU NADAR 47, BE/MS 175cm, VIP, USA, Monthly Inc–10,00,000 Caste No Bar Divorce, Seeks Bride 9380791999

Mudaliyar 30Yrs ME., Ph.D poosam fair handsome Boy well educated, well settled family seek Doctor, Engineers from a good family. CT: 9443428948.

AGE 41,SAIVA Mudaliar, Divorcee, B.E (SW), Abroad, Ct : 9841281948

SEEKING BRAHMIN bride any sect for 37 years old IIT IIM educated well earning divorcee with no issues. Contact: 9840853946 / 9025119458

HINDU NADAR, First marriage Baskar (36) 175cm, MBA, 1.5L P / Month including business and rent, Suitable bride from Chennai. 9382603744

AGAMUDAIYAR, 33 / 182, B.Tech, Simmam / Pooram, GTR Interior & Construction – Ch, Seeks Suitable Educated Bride. Ct: 9841865651, 9843421312

CHETTIAR 39/173 Slim BTech MS USA Elite Family seeks Er Bride below 35Yrs US/India CNB Geetham 9884858014

BROKERS EXCUSE. Seeking educated professional girl with good family values for Hindu Tamil boy, born Jan 1989, 5"6, IT Professional with Masters degree working in Top MNC in Melbourne. Caste No Bar. WhatsApp Photo & Biodata to 9840509420.

MUDALIAR (CNB) 29/180 Handsome,B.Tech, MS,Project Manager,USA, 100000dollar PA,Affluent Family Seeks Bride USA/Canada 9444039984, 7358510790

TAMIL

AGE.30 MBBS, MD (Govt) 1Lakh Per Month, Only Son Well Settled. Need: Doctor, BE, Any PG. Ct: 93603 95175.

42 YRS chennai ,Hindu, Bank manager, looking for suitable bride. Caste no bar. Contact No :– 9566209636.

USA BASED Software Architect , Age 48, looking for good looking & fair girl, age from 40 to 45 tamil speaking family oriented girl interested to settle in US after marriage. Preferred for widow women. kindly share your bio data with photo to whatsapp number 9080400330.

VEGETARIAN BRIDES aged btw 38 and 44 wanted for well settled Grooms. Those who expects good life–partner can call us. Ct: 9094039023, 8825592221.

MUTHURAJA 28/180 B.E, MS (USA) Engineer, USA. Seeks bride in USA or willing to travel USA. Ct: 9444581708

MUDALIYAR 30YRS/MS /Thiruvonam, Meena Rasi working in US in IT Sector Well to Do Family with his Assests Worth in Crores.Seeks Bride 9840456644(only Whats App call), 9840636662

NAIDU, 36, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride Good Family from South Tamilnadu, Avoid If already contacted. 9443172955

AGE 70 yrs Man residing overseas would like to have life Partner Aged 35–60. Email: rajen.samy@yahoo.com

GROOM 41 - 173cm - Employed and Business. Well settled Good family Seeking Bride - caring - educated. Caste no bar- widowed / divorced also welcome. Ph: 88255 55545 email: talentashok500@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 29/180,VERY Handsome, MBBS, MS,Surgeon,Jipmer,1500000.PA, Elite Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

HINDU NADAR, Nov 1981 born, 5.7', Purattathi, M.Tech Ph.D (IIT), native of Madurai, Clean habits, MNC Bangalore, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable family oriented Bride / Divorcee (without issue). Send BHP to: 9843149380

VANNIYAR, 40/173, Dentist, Pvt Clinic, Seeks Educated Unmarried/ Widow/ Divorcee. Caste No Bar 9840072550

IYER, VADAMAL, Pourugutsigam, 11/08/1981,183cm,Kettai, BE (ECE), Director in IT-Startup, 18L per annum, Coimbatore, sub-sect no bar, Unmarried / widow without issues CT: 9945878994, 9940035935.

IYER, VADAMAL, Pourugutsigam, 06/04/1983,183cm, Uthradam, B.Com (CA-Final), GM-Finance in IT-Startup, 12L per annum, Coimbatore, sub-sect no bar. CT: 9945878994, 9940035935.

IYER KETTAI 39, B.E, L.L.B., 18L/ Pa, own house, own company, all veg ok. CNB. Ct: 9500456893/ 6369157055

BRIDE WANTED
HINDU, NADAR, 45/5.7', Own Business, Well settled, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable Bride/ Divorcee (without issue) below 38 yrs with good family background. Same Caste.
Ct: 9042853519

TAMIL

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our elder son, aged 29 years, residing in Chennai, height 6 feet, M.B.A (IIM Ahmedabad), Hindu, Brahmin, Iyer, Haritham, Anusham, Medium complexion. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family and working. Same caste. Non Haritham, No doshas, Should be around 26 to 28 years. Contact with Astrological details to rk0437992@gmail.com

BRIDE WANTED
A High Profile Christian RC Tamil speaking family- Own business – Educational institution (Chennai based) seeks a good looking, well educated bride with a good family background for their well mannered and family oriented son 29/181cm
Ct: 99406 29732

BRIDE WANTED
Age 41, Vellalar Pillai, BE, ECE, 171/ 68 kg. working as a Software Architect in International Bank, Singapore, Tanjore origin, well settled, wedding function void (annuled). Expected bride with a degree, good family background (caste & status no bar). Contact: +918220007069

MS Ortho DNB-Asst prof 29/176 workg in corporate hospital looking for a bride prefrbly doctors from SC-Adi Dravida. Photo,details H-scope. 93828 89575 / kabilarramni1906@gmail.com

31 / 164cm ME. Assistant Professor Chennai Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee- No Issue. Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Chettiar Preferred. Contact: 94430 52596 / 94456 89306

41Yr Divorcee, MBA/MNC No issues, No child RC Naidu. Seek middle class Girl, with no child Cont: 8248731183

TELUGU

TIRUPUR Naidu Boy 28/180 MBA (IT), Affluent,own business,bride from Any Naidu. 9994581873, 9047081873.

Kamma Naidu, 1974 born, Good looking, never married, MCA, 5'9", Fair, Lead Project Manager in an MNC, Chennai, 45 LPA, looking for suitable Bride, Contact: 9841025124.

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM parents invite alliance for their son MBBS, MD (General Medicine), DM (Cardiology), presently working as Associate Cardiologist in a reputed hospital, Bangalore. Looking for a beautiful girl from a respectable family who has completed / in final year DM/ MD/ MS Degree. Contact & Whatsapp: 9845614231

SMU BE S/W Eng & Business fly, 40 / 166 Separated, No Child Affluent Namazi seeks bride with Deen & fly values. 81243 08296 / 78715 71483

MUSLIM/SHAIK. AMZAD ALI, 29YRS, 170CM, Fair, MBA (VIT-TN), MS(USA), IT Project Manager (USA), 93 Lakhs P.A. Native of KADAPA, Residing at HYDERABAD, Seeks Bride. Cell:8919841945 .

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 30, 185 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable Iyer match. Contact: 6366448344

PARKAVAKULAM, 35, 183 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Madurai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR, 35, 178 cms, Businessman, MSc. Lives in Switzerland. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 34, 175 cms, Sr. Manager, MBA. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

DEVANDRA KULA VELLALAR, 26, 178 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman and Mother is a Working Professional. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 25, 152 cms, Pursuing MD Anesthesia. Lives in Salem. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

INTER CASTE, 30, 160 cms, Entrepreneur, MA. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents are Working Professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match from business family in Metro cities and Abroad. Contact: 6366448344

DEVAR, 27, 165 cms, BE. Lives in Thanjavur. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

SUNNI MUSLIM, 24, 165 cms, M Sc. Lives in Kolkata. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Post graduate. From a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED
Telugu Kapu from West Godavari, Settled in Chennai. 25/162, Fair and Slim Girl, Architect with Business background and Land Lord in Chennai. Looking for Eligible Rich Kapu Groom.
Contact & Whatapp: **9717980171**

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Sheik / Syed BE–Architect 24 / 163cm religious, slim seeks groom from Educated and good family. Ct: 9444086515, 9841741885

URDU MUSLIM Sheik/Syed B.Sc–Computer 26/163cm religious, good looking seeks groom from Educated and good family. Ct: 9444862826, 9999725706.

SMU Fair 27/152cm BE/MS (non-IT) works in Japan, open to relocate. Parents seek groom from well settled qualified good family. CT:9789622873.

Chennai Based Indian Sunni Muslim, Well Settled Parents Invite Proposal for their Daughter, 24 Yrs, 4'9", Beautiful at Heart, Good Complexion, Creative Mind-set, B.E ECE, Working as Product Engineer. Ph: 044-49502820, 9952362787, Email: sirajmessage@gmail.com, mujichennai@gmail.com,

DIVORCEE

Divorcee Issueless 39/ 175 cm Businessman Sindhi Chennai based Boy Seeks beautiful, tall 33/ 37 Yrs Educated Hindu Bride. Contact: 9840668886

DOCTOR

TAMIL MUSLIM 29/184 MDS Prosthodontist S/O District Judge (Rtd.) seeks Doctor bride. Contact: 9047613106.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar height: 169cm Doctor MDRD Nov 1992 Born Looking for a Christian Nadar Doctor Bride Contact: 63810 00493

VANNIYAKULA CHATHRIYAR 28/177, MDS Asst. Proff, Seeks Dental/ BPT Bride. Ct: 9789859565, 9710330967 (W)

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with DIP in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride / Divorcee above 28yrs. Contact: 90039 83230.

BORN AGAIN Christian Canadian citizen 50yrs fair youngish innocent divorcee Seeks born again Christian settled in Canada. Email draj220466@gmail.com

HINDU DKV Pallan ME, 41/167cm Manager Nationalised Bank. Seeks Suitable Bride. CT 99652 11259

Brahmin,Author 70 matured, divorced well settled. Widow above 50, decent, Educated. Whats App: 82208 22951

GROOM WANTED
KAPU NAIDU Telugu, 29/152, Fair, White and Slim Girl, B.Tech., MBA. Rich, Owned 2 Engineering Colleges, No Brothers, Grand Father Sitting MLA. Seeks suitable rich kapu groom from AP/TS
Contact Mobile : 6281218694

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

SALE: CNC ASQUITH FLOOR BORING ,FANUC,X–8m,Y–3.2m,Z–900mm, spindle dia–180mm, Price–80L. Contact: 9884485691/92

RESTAURANT FOR Sale at Ayanavaram Prime Location, 2 floors with Party Hall, 3360 Sq ft, with full setup for sale. Ct:9840021344, 7550054088

BUSINESS FOR SALE

CHENNAI RUNNING Spoken English Institute Sale. 25 L neg. Ct:9840059193

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GENERAL

1.PERSONAL SECURITY with computer knowledge speaking skills English, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam & kannada. Age 30 to 45. With experience 2.Ayurvedic Doctor with BAMS Degree. Call: 9500465580 or email: rishiherbs.tvm@gmail.com

URGENT
SALES EXECUTIVES (2NOS)
0-1yrs exp in sales, business development for corrugated box Industry,
Qualification: Any degree
All positions are for Bangalore/Chennai. Interested candidates may email resume to srinsagar.ceo@gmail.com Whatsup:-9843196579

MEDICAL

WANTED EXPERIENCED Dentist, Physiotherapist. D.M.S. Hospital, Batlagundu, Dindigul. Ct: 9994913702

C.S.I. KALYANI / RAINY MULTI SPECIALITY HOSPITALS IN CHENNAI REQUIRES

FULL-TIME
1. Gynaecologists – MD/DNB both Jr. & Sr
2. Pediatricians – MD/DNB
3. General Physicians – MD/DNB
4. General Surgeon – MS/DNB
5. Lady Sonologists
6. Nurses – GNM /B.Sc., Both fresh & exp.
7. Pharmacists – D.Pharm/B.Pharm

PART-TIME
1. Endocrinologist – DM/Fellowship
2. Cardiologist – DM/DNB
3. Nephrologist – DM/DNB
4. Gastroenterologist – DM/M.Ch.,

Walk in (or) Contact – 044 – 28474141, 98404 11877
Email:csikalyanihospital@rocketmail.com

MEDICAL

LOTUS HOSPITAL, Erode. Wanted: SR. Cathlab Technician, CT Scrub Nurse, Staff Nurse, System Administrator. 99945-52605, Email: lotusgm@rediffmail.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANGITAKUMARI Sunil Gupta ,W/O Sunil Laxmikant Gupta ,R/O No.8, 1st Flr, Padmeshwari Nagar, Kittinagur Village, Bhattarahalli, Blr–49, have changed my name as " Sangita Gupta " vide afdvt dtd 06/1/2023.

I, ASHISH Prafullakumar Pol ,S/O Prafullakumar Rajaram Pol ,R/O Flat No G–09,Jagath Premier Residency, 2nd Cross, CT Street, Marathahalli Colony, Blr–37. have changed my name as " Ashish Pol " vide afdvt dtd 05/1/2023.

Decks cleared for suburban railway project; SWR transfers 157 acres of land to KRIDE for Corridor 2

As per the agreement, the South Western Railway has leased land for a period of 35 years by charging nominal fee of ₹1 per acre. In the first phase of the project, KRIDE will implement Corridor 2, a stretch of 25 km from Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

One of the major hurdles for execution of the Bengaluru suburban rail project has been cleared. In the last week of December, the South Western Railway (SWR) signed an agreement with KRIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited for transfer of railway lands.

As per the agreement, for the first phase of work, the SWR has handed over 157 acres of land to the KRIDE. For the suburban rail project, the SWR leased the land for a period of 35 years and charged a nominal rate of ₹1 per acre as the decision was taken by both Central and State governments.

The KRIDE is a joint venture of the Government of Karnataka and the Ministry of Railways, and is tasked with the implementation of a 148 km line suburban network in the city. In the first of the project, the KRIDE is implementing Corridor 2 from Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara (25 km). Though the work order was issued in September, construction work did not take off as expected due to delay in handing over of the land.

A senior KRIDE official said that work near Hebbal railway station has started, and that in the coming days, construction work will be taken up at many other locations. FILE PHOTO

Land identified

During his recent visit to the city, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw assured that the land would be made available in a "few days".

In 2019, the Railways had taken a decision to hand over the land required for the project at ₹1 per acre. It is said that 326 acres of railway land has been identified for building four corridors in the city. Divisional Railway Manager (Bengaluru Division) Shyam Singh said, "As per the agreement reached, the 150 odd acres of land has been handed over to the KRIDE. The allotment has been made as per the requirement given by the KRIDE. In future, further decisions on transfer of land will be taken as per KRIDE's request." Under Corridor 2, the KRIDE is constructing 14 stations.

The official said that the KRIDE had sought clearance for two alignments of the suburban rail network and those have been approved by the South Western Railway.

In the second phase, the KRIDE will execute Corridor 4, that is from Heelalige to Rajankunte. The length of the corridor is 46 kilometres, and 19 stations are proposed at various locations. The KRIDE has already submitted a request seeking transfer of 193 acres of land.

Four corridors

In October 2020, the Central government had approved the project of building four corridors in the city: KSR Bengaluru - Devanahalli (41 km), Baiyappanahalli - Chikkabanavara (25.14 km), Kengeri - Whitefield (35.52 km), and Heelalige - Rajankunte (46.24 km). The suburban rail project is estimated to cost ₹15,767 crore. Both the State and Union governments will each bear 20% of the cost, while the remaining 60% will be raised through external sources.

In June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the project and assured Bengalureans that "the project which got delayed for 40 years will be a reality in 40 months."

A senior official of the KRIDE said, "The KRIDE has received railway land for Corridor 2. This will expedite the work. We have started work near Hebbal railway station. In the coming days, construction work will be taken up at multiple locations. For the project, 90% of land required is railway land. For remaining private land, notifications for acquisition through KIADB land acquisition process has reached an advanced stage. Tenders for corridor 4 will be called in the next 10 days. Efforts are on to raise funds for the project from multinational financial agencies."

Gang of three arrested; 35 mobile phones recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mico Layout police on Saturday arrested a gang of three members and recovered 35 mobile phones worth ₹8.5 lakh which they had robbed from different people in and around the South East division for many months.

The accused had snatched an iPhone from Sujith S., a city-based software engineer while he was booking a cab at Bilakahalli bus stand on December 28. The accused approached him on a scooter and sped away after snatching his phone. Based on the complaint, the police analysed footage from 90 CCTV cameras in and around the crime scene, tracked down the accused and arrested them.

KRERA has no authority over projects granted partial occupancy certificate prior to enforcement of Act: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FROM THE COURT

The disputes pertaining to real estate projects, for which partial occupancy certificate was granted prior to commencement of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development Act), 2016, and the Rules, were not maintainable before the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (KRERA), said the High Court of Karnataka.

When the Karnataka Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017, itself exempted applicability of the Act and the Rules for the 'ongoing projects' for which partial occupancy certificate was granted prior to commencement of the Act, the KRERA cannot get jurisdiction to adjudicate the disputes over such exempted projects, the Court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Provident Housing Ltd., a real estate developer.

The petitioner has questioned the order passed in 2020 by the State Authority, which had asked the company to refund ₹6.84 lakh in addition to ₹17.85 lakh already refunded to a customer, who had cancelled booking of a flat in one of its projects in Bengaluru city.

The Court noted that apartment project had received partial occupancy certificates from the competent authority twice, in November 2015 and in April 2017, much before the commencement of Karnataka Rules, which came into force in July 2017 after the Act was notified in May 2016. The company had refunded ₹17.84 lakh to the customer in December 2017 by deducing cancellation charges and taxes, and the customer had registered the complaint before the KRERA in February 2019 seeking additional amount. The adjudicating authority appears to have swayed by the grievances vented out by the complainant in entertaining the complainant notwithstanding the fact that the law, which states that ongoing project for which partial occupancy certificate was issued, would not not come under the purview of the Act and the Rules.

Infosys Prize 2022 awarded to researchers in six categories

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) on Friday awarded the winners of the Infosys Prize 2022 for their significant contributions to research.

The winners, across categories such as Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences, were felicitated with gold medal, a citation, and a prize purse of USD 100,000, by Prof. Shafi Goldwasser, Turing Award laureate and Director, Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing.

Rohini Pande (Social Sciences) Suman Chakraborthy, (Engineering & Computer Science) Sudhir Krishnaswamy (Humanities) Mahesh Kakde (Mathematical Sciences) Vidita Vaidya (Life sciences) and Nissim Kanekar (Physical Sciences), the winners of Infosys Prize, in Bengaluru on Saturday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Impact on healthcare, economy

IFS said that the work of the winners has potential impact in the areas of accessible healthcare and diagnostics, inclusive economic and social policy design, a better understanding of our mental health and how our Constitution protects India's democratic polity.

"Science, mathematics, and engineering are the theoretical foundation and practical engines for knowledge and technology that is changing the world, making us globally connected, pushing forward medical advances, improving our energy usage and infrastructure, and fundamentally enlarging our understanding of the cosmos and the world around us," said Prof. Goldwasser. She added that she was in awe of what the Indian scientists have given the world.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, President, Infosys Science Foundation, said that the work of the prize winners is inspiring a new generation of researchers while revolutionising the science and research landscape in India. "From exploring the frontiers of brain research and astronomy to developing solutions for the urgent healthcare needs of underserved populations to examining the notions of justice in a fast-changing world inundated by the climate emergency and pandemics, our laureates are working on the cutting edge of science, technology, and scholarship. Their work is inspiring a new generation of researchers while revolutionizing the science and research landscape in India," he said.

The winners in six categories

Suman Chakraborty, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur – Engineering and Computer Science.

Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice Chancellor of National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, – Humanities.

Vidita Vaidya, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, – Life Sciences.

Mahesh Kakde, Professor of Mathematics, IISc., Bengaluru, – Mathematical Sciences.

Nissim Kanekar, Professor, National Centre for Radio Astronomy, Pune, – Physical Sciences.

Rohini Pande, Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director, Economic Growth Center, Yale University – Social Sciences.

News portal served notice to disclose source

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Kannada news portal has been served a notice by Bengaluru Cybercrime Police asking them to reveal the source of a document, based on which the portal did a story and published an image of the document in November 2022.

The news portal The File's founder and editor G. Mahantesh was served a notice on January 5, Thursday, in connection with a case pertaining to the leak of an e-office file noting of the Education Department that was published in the portal. The notice seeks the source of the leaked e-office file noting. The notice asks Mr. Mahantesh to furnish the source's identity, name, address and ID card.

The FIR registered on November 10, acting on a complaint by a senior official of the department, under Section 66 of Information Technology Act, 2000, is against unknown individuals for illegally accessing and leaking the document from the department's e-office portal. The document in question is an e-office file noting about the reinstatement of M.P. Madegowda as managing director Karnataka Text Book Society, after he was arrested in the teacher recruitment scam and was released on bail.

"The case poses a new threat to journalists. As more and more departments are becoming paperless, any leak of a document – the source of most journalism – is being criminalised by misusing cybercrime laws. This is being done in an attempt to threaten whistle-blower officers inside the system and harass journalists at the same time. Earlier, leak of only those documents that fit the definition of an official secret could be criminalised," said G. Mahantesh.

His counsel B.T. Venkatesh said they had responded to the notice issued by the police stating the news portal was duty bound to protect the interests of the source. "Moreover, the document in question pertains to public affairs and could be easily obtained under the RTI Act, 2005. We have asked whether the document could be defined as an official secret under the Official Secrets Act, 1923," he said.

Leopard, two cubs spotted near Nagarbhavi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The forest department officials are keeping watch following reports that a leopard and two cubs were spotted on the outskirts of the city on Friday night.

A leopard and two cubs were reportedly spotted near Nagarbhavi on Friday, however, it has not been sighted since then, said forest department officials.

"We received information that a leopard and two cubs were spotted about five kilometers away from Nagarbhavi and we have deployed teams to keep track of its movements. However, we have not sighted the animal," said an official.

"We are on the lookout, but it has not showed up which means it has most probably gone back to the forest area. But we will continue to keep a track of the leopard," he further added.

In December last year, two leopards were on the prowl, one in Banashankari 6th stage where it had spotted deer in the Turahalli State Forest area and another near Chikkajala on Kempegowda International Airport Road.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 08	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:08
RISE 19:23	SET 07:47
MONDAY, JAN. 09	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:09
RISE 20:13	SET 08:31
TUESDAY, JAN. 10	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:09
RISE 21:02	SET 09:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	15
Bengaluru	26	16

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid. Night will be cool with haze.

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THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

SRS leader survives bid on life in Belagavi

Unidentified persons fired at Ravi Kokitakar, Sri Ram Sene (SRS) leader, here on Saturday night. He has been admitted to hospital and is out of danger, according to police.

The incident occurred when he was returning home after visiting a friend in Hindalga village. The assailants fired on his car and the bullet brushed against his shoulder. An investigation has been launched.

Two women killed, three injured in a hit and run case

Two women were killed and three others, including two minor girls of the same family, were injured when a speeding car knocked down the autorickshaw they were travelling in KR Puram on Friday night. The car fled from the scene. However, the driver was tracked down within few hours and arrested on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Haseena, 38 and her elder sister Faazila, 40. Hassena's husband Khalid Khan, 39, who was driving the auto and his two daughters Sumaiaya, 5, and Sadia, 3 sustained multiple injuries and have been admitted to NIMHANS.

According to the police, the victims were heading to Channasandra from KR Puram when the accident occurred near Medahalli skywalk. Due to the impact of the collision, the autorickshaw was mangled and passersby rushed to rescue the victims struck.

From Page One

Nearly half of govt. quota dental seats remain vacant

A total of 1,419 medical seats (both UG and PG included) were vacant out of a total of 11,242 seats allotted in the government quota in Karnataka.

Very few takers

Dr. M.R. Jayaram, Vice Chairman for Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental College of Karnataka (COMEDK), blamed lack of regulation, and unscientific manner in which new dental colleges are allotted or number of seats in colleges increased for the current scenario.

"The government should carry out a survey on the demand for courses before giving permission for colleges," he said.

The high fee for dental courses is also cited as a reason for lack of demand for the course said Dr. B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education.

"A few colleges were prepared to cut the fee to encourage students. It is better if colleges agree and revise the fee structure," she said.

Dental students cite lack of lucrative job opportunities as one of the main reasons for the poor demand for the course. "Unlike graduates of other disciplines, there are no great job opportunities for dentists at superspeciality hospitals. The only way for us is to start our own practice, the setting up of which is costly," said Sushanth, a third year dental student.

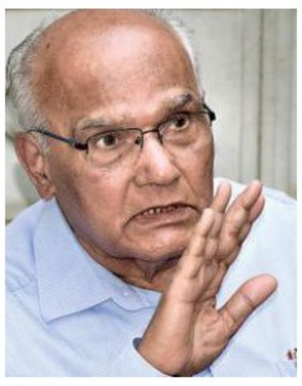
Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages: Bhyrappa

One may note that most works in Sanskrit have been translated into other languages, he says pointing out that many languages have drawn a vast part of their vocabulary from Sanskrit

The Hindu Bureau
HAVERI

A day after president of the 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana Doddarange Gowda took exception to the huge difference in release of grants to Sanskrit and Kannada, Saraswati Samman awardee S.L. Bhyrappa, in a short letter to the organisers, emphasised that Sanskrit was the "mother of all Indian languages".

Dr. Bhyrappa, who was to attend a session titled 'Bharata Jannaniya Tanujate Jaya he Karnataka Mate', in which books on Saraswati Samman awardees was to be released, did not come owing to illness. In a letter sent to the organising committee,


S.L. Bhyrappa

which was read out by writer Pradhan Gurudatt, at the session, Dr. Bhyrappa presented some of his views.

He said: "... In the beginning, Sanskrit stood as mother of all languages and encouraged all languages and was the reason for their growth and prosperity. One may note that most works in Sanskrit have been translated into other Indian languages."

He said that the "word treasure" of all Indian languages has roots mostly in Sanskrit. "For the same reason, when I went to Vallabh University as philosophy teacher, I was able to understand Gujarati language and also communicate in Gujarati at a very short period.... If we take the four main South Indian languages, linguists have opined that 65% of the Kannada words have their roots in Sanskrit. In Telugu and Malayalam languages it is around 70% to 75%. In Tamil, it is comparatively less with 15% to 20%."

Dr. Bhyrappa said in the letter that while Sanskrit was responsible for prosperity of Indian languages in the first phase, in the second phase, the translations of Indian languages were contributing to the growth of Sanskrit, which in itself was a special phenomenon .

"My seven novels, including 'Parva', have been translated into Sanskrit, and scholars of other languages have conveyed to me that they have understood the achievements of Kannada through the Sanskrit translation. So while at one point of time daughters (Indian languages) prospered drawing support from Sanskrit, now it is a pleasure to see daughters taking care of the elder goddess of Sanskrit... I hope this mother-daughter relationship will continue happily," he said.

KIA recognised for promoting Kannada, local art and culture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) was recognised at the 86th All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelana being held at Haveri, for its work in promoting Kannada, local art, culture, and celebrating major festivals that showcase the essence of Karnataka at the airport.

The Kannada Sahitya Parishat recognised the airport's efforts in putting up Kannada signage, making announcements in Kannada, and hosting cultural events to foster love for Kannada and its culture among domestic and foreign travellers.

Rich culture, heritage

In 2022, KIA hosted Dasara and celebrated the Karnataka Rajyotsava in a grand way, offering airport employees, visitors and passengers, both domestic and international, a glimpse of the State's rich culture and heritage.

Hari K. Marar, MD & CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), the operator of the airport, said, "Receiving this recognition and being honoured at the 86th All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelana is a wonderful feeling and a significant achievement in our journey for the airport and also for the organisation. Promoting local language, art and culture has always been one of our main focuses. This honour fills us with immense delight. By presenting the essence of Karnataka in our communications with all our stakeholders, we have always actively worked towards preserving and promoting Kannada and its culture. We are grateful to the Kannada Sahitya Parishat under the leadership of Dr. Mahesh Joshi for recognising our efforts"

Jana Sahitya Sammelana to be held in city today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jana Sahitya Sammelana, organised as resistance to the ongoing 86th Akhila Bharatiya Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, will be held on Sunday at Alumni Association Hall ground, K.R. Circle. Speaking in a press conference, writer Prof. Purushottama Bilimale, said, "We are not against the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, but we must oppose negligence of some communities. Therefore, we are organising Jana Sahitya Sammelana," he said. The Sammelana will begin with the hoisting of Kannada flag by activist Vatal Nagaraj at 9 a.m. Mudnakudu Chinnasway will inaugurate the Sammelana at 10 a.m. Prof. Bilimale said another Sammelana in North Karnataka is also being planned.

Sammelana delegate from Mandya passes away

The Hindu Bureau
HAVERI

A delegate to the All-India Kannada Sahitya Sammelana was found dead in Haveri on Saturday.

Sangana Goudar, 34, a government school teacher from Mattikere village in Mandya district died in his sleep at a private school hostel in Haveri. He had travelled to Haveri along with his friends to participate in the sammelana.

A team of officers led by Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary B.S. Mullolli, rushed to the hostel, and called the police and a government doctor.

On careful examination, the doctor said a heart attack could have been the reason for the death.

After registering a medico legal case, the body was sent to his family in Mandya.

Six months after murdering husband, woman and paramour arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Six months after allegedly killing her husband and disposing of the body successfully, Nandini Layout police arrested a 31-year-old garment factory employee who allegedly smothered her husband to death with the help of her paramour and made it look like a natural death caused due to excessive consumption of alcohol.

However, the crime was exposed after six months when their minor daughter, who was a witness to the crime and was threatened not to tell anyone, narrated her ordeal with her father's family members recently.

According to the police, the accused Anitha, married to Anjaneya, 35, a tiles worker and the couple had a 14-year-old daughter.

Anitha had an affair with Ramesh,26, a canteen employee for the last four years. Anjaneya, a chronic alcoholic came to know about the affair and started fighting with her. Anitha and Ramesh allegedly decided to eliminate Anjaneya and start a new life together. As per the plan on June 18, 2022, Anuitha smothered Anjaneya to death with a pillow while he was drunk and sleeping at home. However, the minor daughter who woke up in the middle of the night witnessed the crime. Anitha threatened her with dire consequences if she spilled the beans. She later informed everyone that Anjaneya died due to excessive drinking and conducted the last rites.

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMIL NADU SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
1st Floor, Integrated Employment office Building, Alandur Road, Thiru.Vi.Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032
Notification No: SDCRNF - 01/2023, dt : 05 - 01 - 2023
The TNSDC wish to invite applications from eligible candidates for the following positions on contractual basis,
1. Vice President - Career Portal
2. Associate Vice President - Industry Engagement (MEAC) and HR & Training
3. Senior Associates in Service Industry, MEAC and Media
4. Senior Software Associate/ IT Coordinator
5. Project Manager (Competitive Exam)
6. Program Manager (Districts)
7. Project Associate.
8. MIS Analysts- District

For details of educational qualification, experience and CTC of the individual job profiles, please log on to the following link **https://www.tnskill.tn.gov.in/Recruitment2.pdf.** If there are any changes corrections in the notification, it will be published in the **www.tnskill.tn.gov.in** website only. The application are invited only through online.
Last date for receipt of application : **31.01.2023**
DIPR/153/TENDER/2023
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BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore – 560009
No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-14/AE-1/2022-23 Date: 07.01.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:14/2022-23
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)
Tender is invited through e-procurment by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under different head of account work. The work details can be obtained from the e-pocurement Website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **16-01-2023 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore
DIPR/CP/3954/VCPL/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನದ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ,18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ. ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ2/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಸಿಆರ್-17/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.01.2023
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ, 200 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಯಲಹಂಕ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿನ, ಪುಟ್ಟೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೆರೆ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಲಯ ಅರಣ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ರಿಪೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವನ್ಯಪ್ರಾಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಘರ್ಷಣೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಪುಟ್ಟೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೆರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪಕ್ಷಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಮೀಸಲು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ Construction of Interpretation Centre Cum Anti-Poaching Camp Building ಮತ್ತು Construction of New Walking Path ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ 1ನೇ/2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಾಗಿ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವಂತಹ ಮತ್ತು 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2023 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.01.2023ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.01.2023ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.01.2023 ರಂದು ನಡೆಯುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನೇ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.01.2023 ರಂದು 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.01.2023ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆದು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.01.2023ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/-
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಪಾಪ್ರ/3945/ಆಕಾರ್/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysore.
EOI Notification Number: DAMH/CW:EOI:T-9:2022-23, Date: 29.12.2022
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the Expression of Interest under adopt a monument scheme for DAMH:2022-23:EOI:T-1 to 5, T-7, T-9, T-11,T-14 to 15, T-22, T-24 to T-42 (Call-2) and T-43 to T-68 Tender documents can be obtained throught e-portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from date 04.01.2023 onwards.
Date of release of EOI: 29.12.2022. Date of Pre-Application Conference: 16.01.2023 at 11.30 Hours. Date of quaries for Tender: 23.01.2023 at 17.00 Hours Tender validity period – 180 days: 04.06.2023. Last date for submitting proposals: 30.01.2023 at 16.00 Hours. Opening of porposals: 02.02.2023 at 11.00 Hours
Sd/- Commissioner, Archaeology, museums and Heritage Department, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/856/2022-23

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main,11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru.
No.EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/19/2022-23 Date: 05-01-2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-1 & 2)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, Mahalaksmipuram Division, BBMP, invites item rate tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Reashpalting Maintenance of Roads in Ward No.102, Vrushabhavanthinagara. **(Others), Call-4.**	18.86	47,150/-
2.	Improvements to Roads and Drains at and Parimalanagara 1st Main and Surroundings Ashokapuram in Ward No.50, Marappanapalya. **(Others), Call-1.**	37.63	75,260/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **16-01-2023 upto 4:00 p.m. (2)** Opening of Tender Document: **18-01-2023 at 11:30 a.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BBMP.

Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University
P.B. No. 6, Nandinagar, Bidar-585 226, Karnataka
No.R/UG-Admn/NRI/Left over/2022-23/ Date: 07.01.2023
NOTIFICATION
Sub: Admission to B.V.Sc & A.H, B.Tech (D.Tech) & B.F.Sc Degree Programme under FN/NRI/NRI-C/ NRI-S Candidates for the Year 2022-2023 **(Left Over Seats in First round seat admission)**
Online applications in the prescribed proforma are invited from the eligible FN/NRI/NRI-C/NRI-S candidates for admission to B.V.Sc & A.H, B.Tech (D.Tech) & B.F.Sc degree programmes for the academic year 2022-23. **(Left Over Seats in First round seat admission).** The submission of ONLINE application Starts from **08.01.2023 to 20.01.2023 (IST 23:59:59 midnight).**
For more details please visit the University **website: www.kvafsu.edu.in**
BY ORDER,
Sd/-
(Sivasankar S., IFS)
Registrar

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT, HOSPETE-583201
No: HAMPI UTSAV-2023/STAGE/PACKAGE-2 & 3/2022-23 Date:07.01.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Deputy commissioner, Vijayanagara District Invites tenders Through E-Procurement Web site http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from eligible Firms / Agency's for Erection of Stage and other Services for the event of Hampi Utsava-2023. The Tender Indent Details as below.
01. **Package Details:** PACKAGE-2: Erection of Stage, Green Room, Press Room, Barricading & Chairs etc., for Stages. and supplying of VVIP & VIP Sofa, chairs, stage chairs and fiber chairs for Hampi Utsav Event-2023 INDENT NUMBER:- HAMPI UTSAV-2023/STAGE/PACKAGE-2/2022-23. **EMD Amount (in Rupees):** 1,00,000/-
02. **Package Details:** PACKAGE-3: Providing, Supplying & Erecting Lattice Pendal, Pipe Pendal, Shamiyana's Octagonal Stalls, Food Stalls & Metal / Casino Poles Barricading, GI Sheet Barricading with Cloth for 03 Days of Hampi Utsav 2023 (27.01.2023 to 29.01.2023)INDENT NUMBER:- HAMPI UTSAV-2023/STAGE/PACKAGE-3/2022-23. **EMD Amount (in Rupees):** 1,00,000/-
Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications: **16.01.2023 at 12.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tender technical bids: **16.01.2023 at 12.00Hrs.** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **17.01.2023 at 12:10 Hrs.** Auto extension of tender schedule: **01 days**
Interested Bidders shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender, Catering Services/Agency can download the tender documents from the https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in through e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically.
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner Vijayanagara District
DIPR/Vijayanagar/325/MCA/2022-23

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division No-2 Babaleshwar- 586 113.
Phone:08355-200020
E-mail ID: eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/MLID-2/PB-4/Roads/2022-23/1641 Date:05.01.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement only)
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL MLI Division No – 2 Babaleshwar, the under signed invites **tender on percentage basis** from eligible contractors for the works of 1] Improvement to Road from Kanbur to Jambagi road in Babaleshwar taluka, Vijayapur district **[Indent No: 23407]** Amount for **Rs.169.35 Lakhs** and 2] Restoration of damaged portion of road from Nandi Sugar Factory to Sutagundi village in Babaleshwar taluka of Vijayapur district. **[Indent -23506] "** Amount for **Rs.169.47 Lakhs**.
Issue and submission of E-tender documents
1] The Contractor can have access to e-tender document from **06.01.2023 to 18.01.2023** up to 5.00 PM. 2] A pre-bid conference will held on **12.01.2023** at 11.00 AM at the office of Executive Engineer, KBJNL MLI Division No 2, Babaleshwar, Dist:Vijayapur. The bidders shall submit their queries if any for clarifications on or before **12.01.2023** up 10.00am positively through following e-mail. eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com 3] Cover-1 [Technical bid] will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL MLI Division No.2 Babaleshwar **on 20.01.2023 at 11.00 AM.**
Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, MLI Division-2, Babaleshwar
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/730/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalbhavan, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 029. Phone : 080 – 4110 6505
e-mail:cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)
The tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible agencies as detailed below:
Name and description of work: **Providing 11KV express feeder lines from 66/11 KV MUSS at B.V.Halli village to IPS at Aralasandra for arranging 750KVA HT power supply under WSS to Ramanagara City and 8 enroute villages with Netkal Reservoir as source. Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT3277.** Approximate value of work in (Rs.): **2.81 crores. (excluding GST)** Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)**: 5,00,000.** Tender Processing fee (Rs.): **As per e-procurement portal.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Documents will be available from: **07-01-2023 (2)** Last Date & Time for seeking Queries / Clarifications : **16-01-2023 at 11:00 a.m. (3)** 3. Date of Pre bid meeting: **16-01- 2023 at 11:30 a.m. (4)** Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal: **06-02-2023 upto 5:30 p.m. (5)** Date and time for opening of Technical bid : **09-02-2023 after 11:00 a.m. (6)** Date and time for opening of Financial bid: **13-02-2023 after 11:00 a.m.**
For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer (B), KUWS&D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-Procurement helpdesk **080-22371090 / 22373788,** email support: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.**
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
DIPR/CP/RO3962/AAPL/2022-23 KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU

KARNATAKA GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
(Minor Irrigation & Groundwater Development Department)
Office of the Director, Groundwater Directorate & Member Secretary Karnataka Groundwater Authority, 2nd Floor, K.S.F.C Bhavan, #1/1, Thimmiah Road, Bengaluru-52
Phone:080-22268732 Email: gwdkar@gmail.com
No. GWD/Tech/GPE/072022-23 Date: 06.01.2023
NOTICE FOR INVITING RE-TENDER
(e-tendering mode only)
E-Tender is invited from the eligible companies/ firm/agencies in two cover system for Procurement of 05 Nos Geophysical Instrument for Groundwater Directorate in Karnataka. Re-Tender documents can be downloaded from e-Procurement website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on 07.01.2023 at morning 10:00 hrs. The last date for submission of e-tender is 23.01.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.
Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority
Groundwater Directorate
Bangalore
DIPR/CP/3949/GREENFMC/2022-23

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ
BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BELAGAVI
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್/ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0831-2470342, 2470257
E-mail:belagavibuda@gmail.com
No BUDA/PWD/E-TENDER/55/2022-23/4140 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06/01/2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Belagaviinvites tenders from eligible Agencies for the works taken under Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants works in standard tender document through E-Procurement portal for further details visit online web site https:/www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The deatils of the time table of tenders are as follows.

Number of works	1 No's
EMD in Rs	Rs 125000
Last Date for Reciept of Tenders/Bids through	23.01.2023 Up to 15:00 Hrs
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	24.01.2023 Up to 15:30 Hrs
Date of Opening of Financial Bid	27.01.2023 Up to 16:00 Hrs

Sd/-Executive Engineer. Belagavi Urban Development Authority Belagavi
Sd/-Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority Belagavi
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1514/MCA/2022-23

Reservation: Kunchitigas set Jan. 31 deadline for Centre

Karnataka had recommend twice to the Union government for inclusion of Kunchitigas in the OBC list; the community has an estimated population of 21 lakh

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Kunchitiga community leaders during a meeting in Bengaluru.

Leaders of the Kunchitiga community, a sub-caste of the dominant Vokkaliga community in Karnataka, have set a deadline of January 31 to the Centre for its inclusion in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list of the Union government for seeking reservation in jobs, including all-India services, and seats in educational institutions.

Office-bearers of the All Kunchitiga Mahasabha and Vishwa Kunchitigara Parishat met in Bengaluru recently and decided to unite the community members and leaders of at least seven districts in the southern part of the State for deciding the next course of action if the demand is not conceded to.

Pandora's box

This is only the latest in a slew of castes and subcastes building pressure on the government for reservation or re-classification in quota in Karnataka ahead of the Assembly elections in April-May.

The Kunchitiga community has an estimated population of 21 lakh and is largely concentrated in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Davangere, and Shivamogga districts. Leaders of both organisations of the community have decided to meet all MPs and MLAs of these districts to clear their stand on the matter before the elections.

Kunchitiga Mahasabha president Muralidhara Halappa told *The Hindu* that the community was not included in the Central list despite the recommendation by the State government twice. Sub-castes of the Vokkaliga such as Sarpa Vokkaliga, Uppina Kolaga Vokkaliga, Gouda/Gowda, and Hallikara had been included in the Central OBC list, but not Kunchitiga, he said. It has been included in the State list of backward classes (3A).

Two recommendations

The Karnataka government had recommended inclusion of the Kunchitiga community in the Centre's OBC list on January 10, 2019. Again, the Karnataka Backward Classes Welfare Department on January 13, 2020, recommended the same to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This was based on the findings of a survey conducted by D. Devaraj Urs Research Institute, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Anthropology Department of the University of Mysore, in 2018.

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment acknowledged that it had received 23 petitions from various associations in Karnataka for the inclusion of the Kunchitiga community in the OBC list of the Centre. But so far no action has been initiated, Mr Halappa said.

The community has four legislators: Rajesh Gowda, BJP MLA for Sira, and M.V. Veerabhadraiah, JD(S) MLA for Madhugiri, besides MLCs Chidananda M. Gowda and K.S. Naveen.

Commission for shifting some OBC communities into EWS category

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

It has proposed to re-classify the backward classes list as per the provision under Rule 11 of the Backward Classes Commission Act, 1995

Amid the clamour for increasing reservation from various castes and subcastes in the State, the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission has pitched for fresh categorisation of castes. It has, among other recommendations in its interim report submitted to the government, suggested shifting some castes out of the OBC pool to the two newly formed EWS category which has 10% reservation.

The commission's recommendation has led to the government's announcement after the last Cabinet meeting in Belagavi on creation of new categories of 2C and 2D for Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, two powerful communities in the State.

The commission has proposed to re-classify the backward classes list as per the provision under Rule 11 of the Backward Classes Commission Act, 1995. Since the last re-classification was done in 2002, it had decided to revisit the issue, said the commission's interim report to the government, which is part of the Cabinet note. The rule provides for a re-classification of the list once in 10 years that could mean exclusion of castes that cease to be backward class or inclusion of new caste in backward class.

"It is possible to shift several castes listed under backward classes to the EWS category to make use of the 10% reservation. The government has to study the possibility of keeping economic conditions as the yardstick to move the castes from backward classes to EWS category," said the Cabinet note.

The note quoted the commission's recommendation that said if some castes listed in backward classes are moved to the EWS, the remaining castes in the backward classes will be left with more reservation within the available quota. It has also recommended that the government should consider re-classification or transfer of some castes from backward classes to the EWS quota. "This will help serve social justice. The State government can provide up to 10% reservation under the EWS quota and it has the responsibility to create opportunities," the commission has opined.

600 listed now

Currently, communities in over 600 castes and subcastes listed in backward classes receive a total of 32% reservation in Karnataka. While the backward classes are currently categorised broadly as 'backward', 'more backward', and 'most backward', the commission has recommended the introduction of two broad reference categories of 'more backward' and 'most backward' to categorise backward classes. It has suggested Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats to be included under 'more backward'.

Logo, mascot of National Youth Festival released

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday released the logo and mascot of the National Youth Festival to be held in Hubballi-Dharwad from January 12.

The theme of the festival is 'Vikasit Yuva, Vikasit Bharat', and over 7,500 delegates from all over the country are expected to participate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the festival in Hubballi on January 12 to coincide with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

For the festival, the logo designed by Bansilal Ketki of Odisha, inspired by the national flower, lotus, was selected through a competition and she will get a cash prize of ₹50,000. Inbam of Bengaluru, who has created the mascot 'Champi Chikka', the elephant, will get a cash prize of ₹50,000. In a function held virtually on Saturday to release the mascot and logo, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports K.C. Narayana Gowda, and Kannada actor Tara Anuradha were present.

Bommai: Accused in human trafficking has links with Opposition leaders as well

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

All cases against K.S. Manjunath alias 'Santro Ravi' are being investigated, says CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said that all complaints pertaining to K.S. Manjunath alias 'Santro Ravi' will be investigated by the police to unravel his links with various politicians.

Manjunath is accused of being the kingpin in human trafficking, having links with politicians, and meddling with police transfers. The Opposition had released photographs of the accused hobnobbing with BJP leaders while audio clips of 'Santro Ravi' bragging of his proximity to government and police officials are doing the rounds. Speaking to mediapersons at Mysuru airport, Mr. Bommai rejected the allegation of the Opposition that the accused has links with the government.

He had issued strict instructions to the Mysuru police to carry out a thorough investigation of complaints related to 'Santro Ravi', including past cases.

Mr. Bommai said, "Santro Ravi has been operating for two decades, claiming proximity to politicians. Hence, he has links with many politicians, including Opposition party leaders as well. The investigation will help provide evidence and unravel the truth."

The Chief Minister said politicians interact with many people whose backgrounds are not scrutinised. "A photograph taken in some context cannot be construed to mean that one is known to the accused," he said, with reference to allegations of BJP Ministers being close to 'Santro Ravi'.

Recently, Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy had sought police investigation into the alleged scam linking the accused in human trafficking with government officials and Ministers.

On the Congress allegation that the Vidhana Soudha had become a "shopping mall" with reference to ₹10 lakh seized from a PWD engineer, Mr. Bommai sought to remind the Opposition that ₹22 lakh was seized from the staff of then Congress MLA for Chamarajanagar C. Puttarangashetty a few years ago. "Those who were silent about it then have no moral right to talk of corruption now," said Mr. Bommai.

CM: Cabinet expansion after one more meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that he is expecting the long-awaited and much-postponed Cabinet expansion to happen soon, after one more round of meeting with central leaders.

Talking to reporters in Chitradurga on Saturday, he said a detailed discussion had been held with the high command in connection with the Cabinet expansion and one more meeting was expected soon.

(Public Works Department)
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 24-2/2022-23 Date: 03.01.2023 (3rd Call)

(For Building Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 3 in Two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in single and two cover system through e-procurement portal for building works of Gowribidanuru Vidhanasabha Constituency from eligible Contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **06.01.2023 to 13.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm.**

(1) Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **10.01.2023 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **13.01.2023 (up to 4.00 pm) (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid: **16.01.2023 at 11.00 am. (4)** Financial Bid will be opened after approval of Technical Bid, Dt. **18.01.2023 at 11.00 am.** For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 439/ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/2022–23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road), Bengaluru-560 025.
Ph: 080 - 25584102 / 25594893
Website: www.ksphc.org E-mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/62/2022-23/298 Date: 06.01.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTTP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document KW-4 through e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (two tender document system) for the work of Constructions of Police Quarters under Police Gruha-2025 Phase III at Various places in Karnataka.

Interested eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. Further details are available on e-Procurement Portal from: **16.01.2023.**

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note : Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer - Contracts

DIPR/CP/3951/AAA/2022-23

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division,Almatti-586201.
Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281044.

No: KBJNL/ALBC-DN/DM/TND/DH-SCP-TSP/2022-23/2612 Date: 06.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, ALBC Division Almatti the under undersigned invites tender on **Percentage tender** in Two cover system in **KW-3 & 4** documents from Qualified registered contractors for the work **Construction of Devar Hipparagi Constituency. Indent No. 23238 & 23239**. Approx. amount put to tender: **Rs.246.67 lakhs**.

The contractor can have access and submission of completed e-tender document of from **09.01.2023 to 21.01.2023** up to 5.00 pm. Prebid meeting will be held on 16.01.2023 at 11.30 AM in the office of undersigned. The Cover –I (Technical bid) will be opened in the under signed office on **23.01.2023** at 11.00 AM. The Cover –II (Financial bid) will be opened in the under signed office on **25.01.2023** at 11.00 AM.

The rights of acceptance/rejection of tender at any time, without giving any reason had with undersigned. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam and www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in **and can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, ALBC Division,Almatti
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/736/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS-6/Tender Notification/2022-23/7662 Dated: 06.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-3 & 4) for 8443, 3054 of 5 works of Indent No: 154906/CALL-2, 160710/CALL-2, 161843/CALL-2, 157298/CALL-2, 160506/CALL-2 tenders is called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23, 2) Estimated Cost: **Minimum Rs. 54.90 Lakhs Maximum Rs. 230.00 Lakhs**, 3) Amount Put to Tender: **Minimum Rs. 46.50 Lakhs Maximum Rs. 194.78 Lakhs**, 4) Eligibility of Contractor: "PWD, Registered Contractors:"Class-I Qualified to tender for works upto any amount, "Class-II Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 5.00 Crores, "Class-III Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 2.00 Crores", 5) Tender fees and EMD details : Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 93,000.00 Maximum Rs. 3,00,000.00, 6) Pre- Bid Meeting: **18/01/2023 upto 11.00 Hrs,** 7) Last date for queries : **19/01/2023 upto 17.30 Hrs**, 8) Last date for submission of tender: **20/01/2023 upto 16.00 Hrs.**, 9) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **21/01/2023 at 16:30 Hrs.** 10) Date of opening of Financial Bid: **23/01/2023 at 16.30 Hrs**, 11) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 12) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/1083/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT, SHIVAMOGGA.
Phone: 08182-226268, E-Mail: dudc_smg@yahoo.co.in

Tender Notification

No. SMGDC.DUDC/PLAN/15/89862/2022 **Date: 05.01.2023**

1) Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Shivamogga invites tenders from the eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the table below. Two tender document procedure as per KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed.
2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
3) Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal.
4) Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, DUDC, DC office, Shivamogga during working hours.
5) Head of account: Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4
(1) Date from which tender document can be downloaded: **06.01.2023**
(2) Pre-bid meeting (Venue-DUDC office) **13.01.2023 at 11:00 AM**
(3) Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **21.01.2023 at 5.30 PM**
(4) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: **23.01.2023 at 11:00 AM**
(5) Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: **31.01.2023 11:00 AM or Later**

Sl No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	E.M.D.(Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of completion
1	Construction of private Bus Stand near Bhagiratha circle under Amrutha Nagarothana Phase 4 scheme at Holehonnur Town (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT144348)	123.95 (Excluding GST)	2.00	9 Months (Excluding monsoon)

Change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in e-procurement portal only. Paper notification will not be given.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell, Shivamogga District.
DIPR/SMG/No.40/Zenkar/2022-23

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara
No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/2022-23/ 2522 **Date:03/01/2023.**

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the work notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through Electronic system containing details of EMD through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT159433 /CALL-2	425.00
2	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT159554/CALL-2	400.00
3	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT157359/CALL-2	400.00
4	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT159436/CALL-2	375.00
5	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT159437/CALL-3	400.00
6	KPWD/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT162795	150.00
7	KPWD/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT162794	250.00

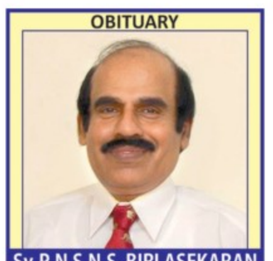
1. Quarries of Tender On: **As Per E-procurement Portal.** 2. Last Date of Tender Submission On: **11/01/2023 @ 16.00 Hours.** 3. Tender Opening date On: **12/01/2023 @ 16.30 Hours** 4. Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per E-procurement Portal.**
Note: 1.Any Changes Either in Tender date or any other condition , Tenderers can view in E-procurement Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/315/MCA/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



Sv.P.N.S.N.S. BIRLASEKARAN
DOB:23-04-1945 - DOD:06-01-2023
Retd. Professor
Husband of late Niraimathi
S/o.Sivasamy Nadar & Late Rathinavathy Ammal
Ct: 94455 36291

DEATH

Mrs Sharada Viswanathan
DOB: 24.06.1928 DOD: 05.01.2023
w/o of **Late Col.PS Viswanathan IPS** (retd)
passed away peacefully and cremated on the same day.
She is a well known writer in Tamil
Daughter : **VS Chandralekha IAS (retd)**
Sons : **V Srikantan and V Shankar.**

Two killed in building collapse in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

At least two workers were killed after portions of concrete slabs of an under-construction building collapsed in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The incident took place at Shanthi Nagar area in Kukatpally around 3.30 p.m., when workers were engaged in casting RCC slab for the fourth floor. Both the fourth and the third floor slabs collapsed in the process.

Kukatpally police said the National Disaster Response Force was able to retrieve two bodies from under the steel and concrete debris. Another worker was shifted for emergency care.

'Frequent outbreaks of bird flu in Kerala require diagnostic studies'

Ramsar sites need continuous monitoring and epidemiological studies; investigations required on whether contamination occurs through soil and water, and if there is any change in salinity and pH level of water and soil over the period

Mini Muringatheri
THRISSUR

Frequent outbreaks of avian flu in Kerala have critically hit the poultry industry and the livelihood of hundreds of farmers. Five outbreaks have been reported in the last three to four months alone. Experts demand diagnostic studies to control the infection.

"Contact with migratory birds is the likely trigger for the current outbreak. It is high time to conduct diagnostic studies and identify sustainable measures for reducing the recurrence of infection," says T.P. Sethumadhavan, former director, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, and Professor, University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences, Bengaluru. "Duck farming is one of the traditional farming systems in the State, especially in the Kuttanad area. Investigations are required on whether contamination occurs through soil and water. We need to check whether there is any change in salinity and pH of water and soil over the period."

Cause for concern: A file photo of the rapid response teams preparing to cull ducks at Karumuttu in Karuvatta.

Kerala's wetlands, which habitats more than 80% of duck population, are under threat due to outbreaks of bird flu. Many of these wetlands come under Ramsar sites with rich biodiversity. The Kuttanad area, a Ramsar site, is under constant threat of Avian influenza.

"There is no effective vaccination against bird flu. It spreads mainly through migratory birds," says B. Ajithbabu, Deputy Director, Department of Animal Husbandry.

Avian flu: 172 birds culled in Alappuzha

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

An outbreak of avian flu in chicken has been confirmed at Thirumala ward of the Alappuzha municipality in Kerala.

On Saturday, rapid response teams of the Animal Husbandry Department culled 172 domesticated birds including chicken, duck and quail within one-km radius of the hotspot.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	17.4	11.7	Kozhikode	—	34.0	23.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.4	16.2	Kurnool	—	30.6	20.4
Aizawl	—	—	11.2	Lucknow	—	13.6	4.0
Allahabad	—	19.4	5.5	Madurai	—	32.4	23.4
Bengaluru	—	26.2	16.3	Mangaluru	—	33.5	22.1
Bhopal	—	22.9	7.9	Mumbai	—	32.8	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.4	11.5	Mysuru	—	28.0	15.0
Chandigarh	—	12.3	6.6	New Delhi	—	16.7	2.2
Chennai	0.4	29.6	23.9	Patna	—	14.4	7.2
Coimbatore	—	29.3	20.6	Port Blair	—	30.8	25.7
Dehradun	—	23.3	6.0	Puducherry	—	30.8	20.6
Gangtok	—	17.2	7.3	Pune	—	27.1	18.5
Goa	—	33.0	22.4	Raipur	—	26.2	11.9
Guwahati	—	27.0	9.6	Ranchi	—	22.7	8.5
Hubballi	—	29.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.6	8.8
Hyderabad	—	28.7	18.6	Shimla	—	19.0	7.8
Imphal	—	25.8	6.3	Srinagar	—	7.5	-1.4
Jaipur	—	23.7	4.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	24.4
Kochi	—	31.6	23.4	Tiruchi	—	30.7	22.4
Kohima	—	19.2	6.2	Vijayawada	—	30.2	21.5
Kolkata	—	22.5	11.5	Visakhapatnam	—	28.3	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..73	.50	76	86	
Bengaluru	...8	..94	.72	...138	...107	
Chennai	.27	..65	.41	...186	...122	
Delhi	.23	..19	.44	...352	...500	
Hyderabad	...4	8	.39	...228	.....—	
Kolkata	.10	..17	.53	...305	...151	
Lucknow	...8	..46	111	...329	...248	
Mumbai	.29	205	.68	...272	...219	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.41	.....—	.....—	.....—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 417 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

New edition of work on Sri Ramana Maharshi released

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUVANNAMALAI

A new edition of its earlier work on Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi, *Who am I, Bhagavan Sri Ramana, 1879-1950*, published by The Hindu Group of Publications, was launched at Sri Ramanasramam, Tiruvannamalai, on Saturday, coinciding with the 143rd jayanthi of Bhagwan Sri Ramana Maharshi. The priest placed the book in the sanctum.

The launch of the new edition coincides with the centenary of Sri Ramanasramam, Tiruvannamalai, which came into existence on December 28, 1922. The Ramanasramam's centenary celebrations, which began last month, will continue up to December 28, 2023.

The first copy of the new edition was released by Sridhar Arnala, vice-president (sales and distribution), The Hindu Group, in the presence of V. Jayaraman, vice-president (Human Resources), The Hindu Group, and R. Srinivasan, Head, Magazines and Special Publications, The Hindu Group. It was received by Venket S. Ramanan, president of the Ashram, and Sivadas Krishnan, the Ashram's secretary.

The first copy of the new edition was released by Sridhar Arnala, vice-president (S&D), The Hindu Group. It was received by Venkat S. Ramanan, president of the Ashram. C. VENKTACHALAPATHY

The 192-page-book includes stories and photographs. It has a story on the history of the 100 years of the Ashram, its austere beginnings, its struggle to stabilise itself after Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi attained *mahanirvana* on April 14, 1950, and how it attracts Ramana's devotees from all over the world today. The cover price of the book is ₹699. Readers can avail themselves of a special launch offer, with a 20% discount for a limited period by booking the copies online at https://bit.ly/3QlhSnM

Ramana Maharshi's primary work called *Upadesa Saram* in Tamil, which has been translated into English, has been published. The earlier edition was launched on March 20, 2020. It has been retained with the life history of Ramana, his "death experience" at the age of 16, how he raised the question of self-enquiry, how he left his home in Madurai at the age of 16 and reached Tiruvannamalai, and how he never left the temple town for the next 54 years but the world came to him.

There are other stories that include interviews with music composer Ilaiyaraaja, Ramana Maharshi's committed devotees, sketches on several seekers, the Ashram's Veda Patasala, the Arunachaleswara temple and the efficacy of Girivalam.

Strengthen Telangana BJP at booth level, says Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BJP national president J.P. Nadda called upon party workers to strengthen the party at the booth level, saying that this would be the stepping stone to come to power in Telangana.

BJP booth committee meetings are going on for the last few days. On Saturday, booth-level meetings were held in all the 119 Assembly constituencies in which the recently-nominated 'Palaks' took part. Mr. Nadda addressed these booth committee meetings virtually, and asked the leaders and cadre to work in coordination.

State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar also addressed these meetings.

Daredevil stunt

Top gear: Participants at the Motocross race held as part of the Happy Days Shopping festival in Thrissur on Saturday. International champions will be participating in the finals to be held on Sunday. K.K. NAJEEB

Karnataka HC grants part of compensation in road accident case to minor boy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has granted 40% share in the total compensation payable in a motor vehicle accident case to a 10-year-old boy, who was born out of a relation of his father outside wedlock. The father died in a road accident.

However, the court declined the plea for compensation by the boy's mother stating that her claim cannot be considered as her 'live-in' relationship was during the subsistence of her marriage with her first husband. Also, the court noted that even the marriage of the boy's father with another woman was subsisting when he had an "illicit relationship" with her and the child was born, the court said relying on records. Justice H.P. Sandesh passed the order while dismissing the appeal filed by the boy's mother, allowing a plea filed by her on behalf of the boy seeking compensation, and allowing the plea filed by the parents of the boy's father seeking enhancement of compensation.

The court said that of the total ₹13.28 lakh compensation, the boy would get 40% share and the grandparents would get 30% each.

The amount payable to the boy should be kept in a fixed deposit in a bank till he attains majority and the mother is entitled to withdraw interest once in a quarter to meet the educational and other expenses of the minor child, the court said.

A.P. BJP leader flays steep hike in rent for TTD cottages

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh BJP president Somu Veerraju has condemned the "steep rise" in the rent for cottages of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

"Increasing the rent on the pretext that the pilgrim amenities have been improved is justifiable to some extent, but the hike is three times the existing amount in some categories of accommodation, which the common devotee cannot afford to pay," he said. He demanded that the TTD Board explain the reason behind the decision.

"The TTD should have consulted the Hindu religious bodies before effecting the hike," he said.

Public wary of food safety in Kerala after twin deaths

C. Maya
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Two deaths due to food-borne illness in Kerala within a span of one week, both victims dying due to complications of food poisoning after consuming food ordered in from eateries, have raised public concern about the safety of food prepared and handled in food business outlets in the State.

On Saturday, there were also reports of a three-member family being hospitalised in Idukki with symptoms of food poisoning, allegedly after consuming shawarma.

Following the death of a nurse at Kottayam last week, the Food Safety Department had launched an intensive drive across the State, inspecting eateries for hygiene and food safety standards.

Ironically, it was while these raids were continuing that the second death of a 19-year-old girl, Anjusree, was reported from Kasaragod on Saturday. She developed symptoms of food poisoning after consuming food ordered in from a restaurant on December 31.

Health Minister Veena George directed the Food Safety Commissioner to conduct an immediate investigation.

While only a detailed and scientific investigation can pinpoint the possible source of infection and how the contamination might have occurred, often it is the careless and improper manner in which food (especially meat and poultry) is stored and handled, which makes it liable to contamination.

Unfortunate incidents of food poisoning leading to loss of lives can be prevented only if the authorities move quickly to investigate every such incident in a scientific manner, pinpoint the source of infection, and how the contamination could have occurred.

Shah's aggressive posturing in Old Mysore region puts onus on BJP Vokkaliga leaders to push agenda

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's aggressive posture against the Janata Dal (Secular) and his keenness to make inroads in the Vokkaliga-dominated Old Mysore region has put the onus on the BJP's Vokkaliga leaders in pursuing his agenda.

Mr. Shah, who publicly attacked the Opposition JD (S) during his recent visit to Karnataka, is believed to have told his party colleagues to desist from having a soft corner towards any party, including JD(S).

This is being seen as a message, particularly to Vokkaliga leaders in the BJP, as several of them are seen as being 'soft' towards the JD(S). A large number of BJP's Vokkaliga leaders are yet to individually evolve as leaders within the community. This is being blamed for them not being aggressive against the JD(S).

A file photo of Union Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with other leaders at a BJP programme in Bengaluru.

A BJP State leader said that Mr. Shah's focus on Old Mysore region was mainly to ensure that the BJP, which is falling short of the simple majority mark repeatedly, gets more seats on its own to prevent a scenario of depending on political defectors to form the government.

Shah's focus on Old Mysore region is to ensure that the BJP, which is falling short of simple majority repeatedly, gets more seats on its own, said a party leader

"It is a message to the BJP's Vokkaliga leaders that they should be ready to take on JD(S) leaders. It is a message that the onus is on them to help the party to make inroads in this region where we are yet to get a strong foothold," a senior BJP leader told *The Hindu*. "In a general message, Mr. Shah asked us to come out of the mindset that we may need the JD(S) to form the government in the event of a fractured verdict, and that we must maintain cordial relations with that party."

Following Mr. Shah's lead, the BJP is keen to increase its tally in the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya district, where it managed to open its account last time with K.C. Narayana Gowda winning the bypoll from K.R. Pet.

From Page One

Roots connect a Meghalaya village

"Although the exact history of the living root bridges remains undocumented, it is believed that they were built to overcome natural calamities, especially as Meghalaya is prone to floods due to excessive rainfall during monsoon," Ms. Pyngrope says. She adds that these bridges are taking forward the culture of the tribes. They feed into the idea and practice of sustainability.

Mr. War says his wife, Philoris Khyllep, has helped him through the years. "For some time, I had to abandon construction as there was no help from the government or any other agencies. But I continued the work later with the help of my wife and children. We made the entire bridge by ourselves. I did not receive any government aid," he says, adding that a parallel bridge was built by the government in 2001.

"There are many people like Mr. War, who have dedicated their life to protecting the ecology by building and maintaining living root bridges. Governments must help them by constructing parallel bridges so that tourists can see these root bridges and take photos to spread the word. It will also help to protect them. I have tried my best to help by ensuring MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) and other funds be spent to build parallel bridges," Shillong MP and former Minister Vincent H. Pala says.

A spokesperson for the State Tourism Ministry says the Department hasn't added Mr. War's bridge to their map. "We will examine the unknown bridges soon and add them to the tourism map."

In the meantime, Mr. War is passing on his knowledge of twisting and turning roots to make bridges to his three sons.

Key Ladakh outfits reject Centre's plan

These bodies also put forth conditions before the Centre for their participation in any meeting organised by the high-powered committee.

"Both the bodies will agree to participate in any meeting headed by a committee which is empowered to discuss the four issues in question, i.e., statehood, constitutional safeguard under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India in order to protect the interest of the tribal people of Ladakh, formation of Public Service Commission and reservation of jobs for youth of Ladakh, and creation of two separate parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil," the statement said.

Ladakh was carved out as a U.T. from erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Since then, the region has witnessed unrelenting protests demanding special status and statehood. The Centre on January 3 announced a 17-member committee "to discuss steps to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and its strategic importance".

These bodies also accused the Centre of arbitrarily excluding and including members [in the committee] without consulting the LAB and KDA.

The LAB and KDA members have threatened to intensify agitation over the issues highlighted at the meeting in Jammu. They have decided to hold a protest rally in Jammu on January 15 followed by a dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in the third week of February.

Man at the centre of Air India row held

Mr. Mishra's versions to the police have been changing. At first he agreed that he was inebriated, but later denied it. He also said that he had been too tired when he boarded the flight and only vaguely remembered whatever had happened during the journey, a police source told *The Hindu*. The developments unfolded on a day when Air India CEO Campbell Wilson finally issued a statement, four days after the incident came to the fore. There have been questions over the callous response of the airline, which did not report the man to the security forces after the flight from New York landed in Delhi on November 27, file an FIR, issue a warning to the passenger, or restrain him during the flight.

"We regret and are pained about these experiences. Air India acknowledges that it could have handled these matters better, both in the air and on the ground, and is committed to taking action," Mr. Wilson said.

The CEO also announced that the airline had served show cause notices on four cabin crew and a pilot, and de-rostered them pending an investigation. There is also an internal investigation under way to examine lapses by the crew on aspects such as serving alcohol on the flight, handling of an incident, and registration of a complaint onboard, he said. Certain corrective measures were also being undertaken, including a "comprehensive education programme to strengthen crews' awareness of and compliance with policies on the handling of incidents and unruly passengers, and to better equip crew to empathetically assist those affected". The airline will also review its policy on service of alcohol to its passengers, he said.

In a separate letter to the airline's employees, the CEO urged them to ensure "if an incident on our aircraft involves improper behaviour of such magnitude, we must report it to authorities at the earliest opportunity". This, he said, must be ensured even when the crew believes that the matter has been settled between the parties involved.

After Dangri killings, village defence guards get new weapons

In the aftermath of the militant attack, fresh weapons, mainly .303 rifles, were distributed among the volunteers and an assessment of their training done; J&K Police in charge of allotment of guns and cartridges and providing skill training

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

A weapon distribution camp and assessment of weapon stock among the members of the village defence guards (VDGs) were organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in Rajouri on Saturday, six days after militants killed six civilians and injured 15 others in Dangri.

Official sources said fresh weapons, mainly .303 rifles, were distributed among the VDG volunteers and an assessment regarding their training was carried out by the police.

"The allotment of guns and cartridges to the VDGs is to bolster the security of the area. The weapons and ammunition is being provided to the VDGs by police authorities," said Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, while on a visit to Baljaralan in Rajouri to inspect the allotment of guns and cartridges.

He interacted with the VDGs and inquired about their familiarity with the weapons. He urged them to work for the safety and security of the people in the area.

"The VDGs requested special training to ensure that they are comfortable while handling the weapons," an official spokesman said.

'Self-protection': Members of the Village Defence Committee (VDC) holding weapons after two incidents in Dhangri village of Rajouri on Wednesday. PTI

Keeping the peace

Village-wise training programmes would be organised for the VDGs after the weapons are distributed, Mr. Kundal said. "Appropriate measures would be taken to maintain peace and tranquillity in the district," he added.

There is growing demand even among the women of Rajouri to get recruited as VDGs. "We are able to do all the chores of the house. We are tough enough to get training in weapons too to defend ourselves. Especially in families where men stay out for work, women should get arms training," a woman said.

The January 1 attack by militants in Dangri has sent a wave of fear over Rajouri and Poonch districts of the Pir Panjal valley. Several members of the Village Defence Committee, a name used for VDGs earlier, have started night patrolling at Mangnar village of Poonch. "We demand better weapons and wireless sets. The Dangri incident has shaken all of us," a VDC member said.

RSS team visits

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) also visited Dangri and demanded weapons and training for residents.

"There should be an inquiry to find out why weapons were withdrawn from VDCs in the absence of any government order in Rajouri. Those police officers who decided to withdraw weapons should face action. The attack seems to be a plan to force exodus. There is a sense of insecurity among locals. Weapons and training have become a necessity," an RSS leader said.

Meanwhile, BJP state president Ravinder Raina also promised that fresh "VDCs will be formed and the security system strengthened in Rajouri".

VDCs were constituted in 1995 in 10 districts of the Jammu region, where militants carried out massacres of members of minority communities till 2006.

However, with the decline of militancy in the Jammu region and such attacks coming to a naught, the previous regimes in J&K decided to disband such VDCs and withdraw weapons from volunteers.

Around 26,567 residents were recruited into VDCs in the Jammu region. These volunteers also faced allegations of crimes, including kidnapping and rape. According to official figures, 160 criminal cases involving VDC members were filed in the Jammu region. However, the Union government in March 2022 hinted at re-establishing VDCs with a new name – Village Defence Guards.

Assam former MLA held for trying to float terror group

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A former MLA and two others were arrested in Kokrajhar district of Assam on Saturday for allegedly trying to float an extremist group. The police recovered an AK-47 assault rifle, an M16 rifle and more than 100 live cartridges from the residence of former MLA Hitesh Basumatary.

Kokrajhar SP Pushpraj Singh said the three persons were being interrogated in police custody. A local court had sent them to five days in police custody.

Mr. Basumatary won the 2011 Assembly election from the Chapaguri constituency as a candidate of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF). He also served as an executive member of the Bodoland Territorial Council, which was renamed Bodoland Territorial Region later. The police said he was associated with the Bodo Liberation Tigers, a disbanded extremist outfit. Officials claimed militancy in the BTR had ended after the signing of a tripartite accord among the Centre, the Assam government and Bodo organisations, including all the factions of the disbanded National Democratic Front of Boroland in January 2020. The BLT and NDFB were bitter rivals.

Minor girl apprehended for shooting at woman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old girl has been apprehended for shooting at a 50-year-old in northeast Delhi's North Ghonda area, the police said. The minor had filed a rape case against the victim's son last year. The police received a PCR call on Saturday at the Bhajanpura police station that a girl shot a woman at Subhash Mohalla.

The police reached the spot and found the injured woman, identified as Khursheeda, 50. She was shifted to JPC Hospital by the local people, the police said. Khursheeda ran a grocery shop at her address.

"According to initial enquiry, the girl registered a case under the IPC Sections 327 (causing hurt by means of poison with intent to commit crime) and 376 (rape), and Section 4 of the POCSO Act against Khursheeda's son last year," an officer said.

MHA declares Jaish proxy PAFF a terror outfit; two men designated as terrorists

PAFF has been issuing threats to forces, political leaders and civilians working in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has declared the People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), a proxy outfit of the terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed, a "terrorist organisation".

The Ministry also designated Arbaz Ahmad Mir, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) member, as an individual terrorist under the stringent anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967.

Asif Maqbool Dar, a Kashmiri doctor based in Saudi Arabia, was declared an individual terrorist through another notification on January 7.

In a notification, the Ministry said the PAFF has been regularly issuing threats to security forces, political leaders and civilians working in Jammu & Kashmir from other States.

The PAFF, along with other organisations, is involved in proactively conspiring both physically and on social media to undertake violent terrorist acts in J&K and major cities in India, it said. The PAFF is indulging in the radicalisation of impressionable youth for recruitment and training in handling guns, ammunition and explosives. The group has been involved in terrorism. It has committed and participated in various acts of terrorism in India, it said.

The PAFF had released a video in October 2021 after the killing of nine soldiers in the Poonch-Rajouri belt of J&K. The video claimed that two unidentified terrorists watched over an Indian Army patrol party for around 10 hours before ambushing their tent around dawn the following day (October 11).

The Ministry designated Arbaz Ahmad Mir, who hails from J&K but is based in Pakistan and working for the banned terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, an individual terrorist.

It said Mir has been involved in targeted killings and has emerged as the main conspirator in the killing of a woman teacher, Rajni Bala, in Kulgam of J&K. Mir has been involved in coordinating terrorism in the Kashmir Valley and supporting terrorists by transporting illegal arms or ammunition or explosives from across the border, the Ministry said.

The government believes that Mir has been involved in terrorism and therefore, exercising the powers conferred by Clause (a) of Sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the UAPA.

Modi, State Chief Secretaries discuss MSMEs, GST regime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The PM said that India should focus on infra, investment, innovation and inclusion

The two-day national conference of Chief Secretaries, which concluded here on Saturday, saw discussions on Centre-State relations and issues such as the status of MSMEs and the functioning of the GST regime. Chairing the meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the States to take proactive measures to formalise the MSMEs.

The Prime Minister also discussed the development of both physical and social infrastructure along with a focus on the enhancement of cybersecurity. The significance of the International Year of Millets and steps to enhance the popularity of millet products were also taken up during the meeting.

A release from NITI Aayog, the organisers of the meeting, said the Prime Minister said that in order to build a developed India, the country is focussing on four pillars of infrastructure, investment, innovation and inclusion.

"Launching the Aspirational Block Programme, the Prime Minister underscored the success achieved in various districts under the Aspirational District Programme. He added that the Aspirational District model should now be taken up to the block level in the form of the Aspirational Block Programme. He asked the officials present in the meeting to implement the Aspirational Block Programme in their respective States," Mr. Modi said. On MSMEs, he said that States must act proactively towards the formalisation of MSMEs.

Navy signs contract for autonomous armed boat swarms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy has signed an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd. for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT', an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies. This is the 50th contract under 'SPRINT', which aims at the development of 75 indigenous technologies, officials said. The contract was signed on Wednesday.

"We are keeping the pressure on to sign the 100th contract by January end. Our aim is to induct 75 new technologies by August 15, 2023, as part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*," a Navy official said.

Sagar Defence Engineering has the know-how to create the first armed autonomous unmanned boat with swarming capabilities. "The agreement refers to an Navy project of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT initiative, and the Navy expects to place an order for 12 systems after the construction of the weaponised autonomous unmanned boat," it stated.

Manipur extremist groups feel the heat of civil war in neighbouring Myanmar

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The extremist groups of Manipur operating from their hideouts across the International Border are increasingly feeling the heat of the civil war in adjoining Myanmar.

Officials of the security forces manning the India-Myanmar border said the once-tolerant local people have been turning on the members of extremist groups in Manipur, specifically the Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) over the past few months.

It is a term for groups comprising people from the Imphal Valley.

In a dilemma: People residing near the Myanmar border have been attacking the extremist groups in Manipur . SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The pressure on the VBIGs is learnt to have increased since December 28, 2022, when three pro-democracy groups joined hands to ambush and kill seven members of the Shanni Nationalities Army (Red), a Burmese militia aligned with the Myanmar Army. The ambush took place between Myothit and Mintha on the Indo-Myanmar Friendship Road that Border Roads Organisation built more than a decade ago. The three pro-democracy outfits that carried out the ambush are the 1 Battalion of the People's Democratic Force of the Tamu region near Manipur's border town Moreh, the Kuki National Army (Burma) and the Kabaw Chin National Defence Force.

"These incidents between the pro-democracy forces and the Myanmar Army are a fallout of the civil war. These are messages from the natives that foreign forces trying to obstruct their fight for democracy are no longer welcome," an officer of a paramilitary force said.

U.P. Police arrest BSP leader Yaqoob Qureshi, son

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Haji Yaqoob Qureshi, former Uttar Pradesh Minister and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader, and his elder son Imran Qureshi were arrested on Friday by the Special Task Force (STF) of the State police.

They were arrested in a case related to running an illegal meat plant.

The duo had been absconding since last year after a case was registered against them and 12 others for running a meat plant without a licence.

A case was also registered against them under the Gangsters Act.

On March 31, 2022, the police had allegedly found a meat packaging and processing plant running without permission during a search at Mr. Qureshi's Al Faheem Meatex factory.

After a prolonged delay, H.P. to get new Ministers today

Swearing-in ceremony to be held at 10 a.m.; CM Sukhu says he has submitted a list of 10 legislators to Congress 'high command'; party leadership had reservations over finalising all names in one go

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu arrives in Shimla on Saturday. PTI

The suspense over the much-awaited Cabinet formation in Himachal Pradesh is finally over as the Governor will administer the oath to new Ministers on Sunday in Shimla.

Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar will swear the new Ministers in at 10 a.m. The exact number of Ministers who will be inducted into the Cabinet is still unclear.

After returning from New Delhi, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told *The Hindu* that he had submitted the list of 10 legislators to the Congress high command. "Once the party high command clears the names, the Cabinet will be formed," he said.

A party source privy to the matter said that the party high command had reservations over finalising all the 10 names in one go, and this has been causing the delay. There is a sense within the high command that initially, six to eight Ministers should be inducted, and later on, the Cabinet could be expanded, said the source.

There can be a maximum of 12 Ministers in Himachal Pradesh, including the Chief Minister.

On December 11, Mr. Sukhu took oath as the Chief Minister of the State and Mukesh Agnihotri as Deputy Chief Minister, and since then the Cabinet expansion is awaited. Party insiders say that Chief Minister had held several rounds of deliberations with the high command but yet consensus had not emerged on a few names.

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been cornering the new government, pointing out that "all is not well" within the Congress which is causing the delay.

The Chief Minister, though, has dismissed allegations of infighting.

Vice-President Dhankhar inaugurates NCC Republic Day Camp in capital city

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the march: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar interacting with a cadet during his visit to the NCC Republic Day Camp. PTI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar formally inaugurated the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp on Saturday. He received the NCC Alumni Association membership from the Director-General of NCC, Lieutenant-General Gurbirpal Singh.

The Defence Ministry, in a statement, said: "The cadets attending the camp will participate in a number of activities like cultural competitions, national integration awareness programmes and various institutional training competitions."

The 74th Republic Day Camp commenced at the Cariappa parade ground in the Delhi Cantonment on January 2. A total of 2,155 cadets, including 710 girls from all 28 States and eight Union Territories, are participating in the month-long camp.

The camp will also see participation of cadets and officers from 19 friendly countries as part of the youth exchange programme, the Defence Ministry statement said.

Two National Cadet Corps marching contingents will participate in the Republic Day Parade on January 26, and the camp will culminate with the Prime Minister's rally on the evening of January 28.

Yatra is not to project Rahul as PM face for 2024 election: Jairam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress leader said that the yatra was meant to ideologically combat the RSS and the BJP

The Bharat Jodo Yatra has not been organised to project Rahul Gandhi as a Prime Ministerial candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Saturday.

Asserting that the march had nothing to do with elections, Mr. Ramesh said that the former Congress president had succeeded in highlighting the three big issues of economic inequality, social polarisation and political authoritarianism.

Mr. Ramesh was addressing a press conference at Karnal in Haryana.

"It is an ideological yatra and Rahul Gandhi is its main face. But it is not an individual's yatra," Mr. Ramesh said.

"I do not think you should trivialise the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Do not reduce it to individuals or elections, the yatra is functioning at a much higher level," the Congress leader added.

He asserted that the yatra, which is currently passing through Haryana, is not an "election yatra" and said it was "unfair" to ask if the principal Opposition party was projecting Mr. Gandhi as its Prime Ministerial face.

Accompanied by former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda at the press conference, Mr. Ramesh said the yatra was meant to ideologically combat the RSS and the BJP. He said it was to awaken the country's conscience to "the disaster and the damage" being caused by the personality of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mode of functioning, policies, and politics of harassment and of vendetta.

Sounding poll bugle, Shah lashes out at Baghel govt. over graft charge

Shubhomoy Sikdar
BHOPAL

Laying groundwork: Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a public meeting in Korba, Chhattisgarh, on Saturday. PTI

Lashing out at the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh over the issue of corruption, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused it of siphoning off development funds totalling ₹9,000 crore.

The Home Minister was addressing a public meeting in Korba on Saturday which marked the launch of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) campaign for the Assembly election in late 2023 and the Lok Sabha election that will follow a few months later.

Mr. Shah said that the money was given to Chhattisgarh as part of the District Mineral Fund or DMF but was "sacrificed at the altar of Congress' corruption". The District Mineral Fund is a share of the revenue that is provided for the development of the area where a mine is located.

Chhattisgarh, a mineral-rich State, has several mines across the State and houses tribal population in the immediate vicinity.

"Chhattisgarh received ₹9,233 crores [under the DMF]. I have come to ask that what did Bhupesh Baghel*ji* do with the development fund? I have come to ask the backward class and tribal society of Chhattisgarh whether works worth ₹9,233 crore have been done in your area? Where did the money go," he asked.

Mr. Shah then proceeded to accuse that the money was spent to make Congress workers in the State wealthier.

"Should we not hold them accountable for this? And this accounting doesn't happen by going home in a democracy. While voting, it has to be done by pressing the button on the lotus symbol. The BJP government will take care of the rest of their corruption, don't worry," he said.

He underlined that a BJP's victory in 2023 was crucial if people wanted to see Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister again in 2024.

Mr. Shah alleged that the Congress had nothing to show in the name of development of the Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

Chhattisgarh, a Maoist insurgence-affected area, is one of the 11 States that Mr. Shah is touring this month as part of his party's 'Lok Sabha *pravaas*' programme aimed at the next Lok Sabha election.

During Saturday's meeting, the Home Minister said that efforts were on to eradicate Maoism from the country before the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Pointing out that Naxal violence had gradually come down across India under the BJP rule, Mr. Shah said that the country reported 2,258 Naxal incidents in 2009 when the Congress was ruling and that number had reduced to 509 in 2021.

While presenting statistics of the work done by the BJP at the Centre since 2014 and the 15 years that it ruled Chhattisgarh before being voted out in 2018, Mr. Shah appealed to the public to add "the second engine" to accelerate development in Chhattisgarh.

Amid row, Fauja Singh Sarari resigns from Punjab Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Fauja Singh Sarari resigned as Punjab Food Processing and Horticulture Minister on Saturday.

Shortly after his resignation, Balbir Singh was inducted into the Cabinet and was sworn in by Governor Banwarilal Purohit here.

He has been given the charge of the Health and Family Welfare Department.

The portfolios of other Ministers were also shuffled.

Mr. Sarari, a Cabinet Minister, had come under a cloud last September after an audio clip of his conversation with his close aide surfaced in which he allegedly discussed "a plan to extort money from officials and transporters".

Since then, the AAP government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had been in a tight spot.

Mr. Sarari has been maintaining that he was innocent and the audio was doctored. According to the AAP, Mr. Sarari quit the post citing "personal reasons".

Mr. Sarari's departments has been given to Chetan Singh Jouramajra, who was holding the portfolio of Health until now.

The Opposition parties – the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – have demanded the arrest of Mr. Sarari.

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क्रमांक: अ.अ./बाँध-I/माही/लेखा-1/2022/3258 दिनांक: 23.12.2022
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 16 वर्ष 2022-23
खण्ड अन्तर्गत विभिन्न निर्माण कार्य हेतु इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से दिनांक 16.01.2023 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा में वर्णित कार्य से संबंधित विवरण व अन्य शर्तें वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd पर देखी जा सकती है।
UBN:- WRD2223WSOB02382
डीआईपीआर/सी/16672/2022 अधिशासी अभियन्ता

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RNT MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UDAIPUR (RAJ.)
RNT/Pur-I/F.16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2022-23/2543 Dated: 30.12.2022
Notice Inviting Bid No. 15/2022-23(e-Tender)
Bids for Medical Equipments are invited from Interested bidders upto Date:- 23.01.2023 Time:- 10:30 AM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN- MCU2223GLOB00230, MCU2223GLOB00231, MCU2223GLOB00232, MCU2223GLOB00233, MCU2223GLOB00234, MCU2223GLOB00235, MCU2223GLOB00236, MCU2223GLOB00237, MCU2223GLOB00238, MCU2223GLOB00239, MCU2223GLOB00240, MCU2223GLOB00241, MCU2223GLOB00245, MCU2223GLOB00246, MCU2223GLOB00247, MCU2223GLOB00248, MCU2223GLOB00250, MCU2223GSOB00242, MCU2223GSOB00243, MCU2223GSOB00244, MCU2223GSOB00249
DIPR/C/16 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
2nd Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Race Course, Vadodara 390007
Phone 0265-2334751, Fax:0265-2344543 www.guvnl.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
GUVNL, a Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of 500- 750 MW RTC power for the period from 06.02.2023 to 30.06.2023 at GETCO Periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India Guidelines dated 30.03.2016 read with amendment to the guideline notified on 21.02.2022.RFP is available at www.mstcecommerce.com from 07.01.2023. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.
Date: 8th January 2023 General Manager (Commerce)

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LTD.
(Government of M.P. Undertaking)
Nishtha Parisar, Bijalee Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-462023, Ph. No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax No. : 0755-2589821, 2586636
No. MD/MK/04/67 Bhopal, Dated : 06.01.2023
TENDER NOTICE
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal invites online Bids from Agencies for supply & execution of below mentioned works as per Tender Specification under RDSS Scheme :-

Tender Specification Number	Particular of material for Procurement	Lot & Name of Circle	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee (incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Date of Pre Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/865	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 11 KV line for Bifurcation & Interconnection, Additional 11 KV Bay at 33/11 KV Sub-station, Augmentation of Conductor of 11 KV Lines, Additional Distribution Transformer Substations with	Lot-VII (Shivpuri, Sheopur, Ashoknagar)	28641.53510	23600.00	18.01.2023 03.00 PM	03.02.2023 03.00 PM
MD/MK/04/866	associate New 11 KV Lines, LT Line on AB Cable, Conversion of bare LT line with AB Cable, Augmentation of LT AB Cable,	Lot-VIII (Rajgarh)	11674.44513	23600.00	18.01.2023 03.00 PM	
MD/MK/04/867	11 KV Line Crossing Agriculture & Non Agriculture Feeder, other associated work and Supporting works such as DPs, TPs, Crossing etc. Package- VI-B Part-II in Bhopal & Gwalior Region of MPMKVVCL, Bhopal under Revamped Reforms-based and	Lot-IX (Gwalior O&M, Gwalior CC, Datia)	25060.40989	23600.00	18.01.2023 03.00 PM	
MD/MK/04/868	Results-linked Distribution Sector Scheme- (RDSS).	Lot-X (Rasien)	13054.00926	23600.00	18.01.2023 03.00 PM	
MD/MK/04/869		Lot-XI (Bhind)	10297.44419	23600.00	18.01.2023 03.00 PM	

Other details and full tender document would be available on our Company Website https://portal.mpcz.in & MP Govt. website https://mptenders.gov.in very shortly.
M.P. Madhyam/108034/2023 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No.	Tender no. / Rate Contract (RC) No./ Item with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Last date Submission	Opening
1	Online Tender No.E909/ABCS/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, Dt.05.01.2023- Automated Blood Culture System (23) -Rs.5,725/-	12.01.2023 to 13.02.2023	23.01.2023 11.00 AM	14.02.2023 11.00 AM	14.02.2023 12.00 Noon
2	Online Tender No.E910/ABSS/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, Dt.05.01.2023- Automated Bacterial Identification & Anti-Microbial Susceptibility System (35)- Rs.5,725/-	12.01.2023 to 13.02.2023	23.01.2023 12.00 Noon	14.02.2023 11.00 AM	14.02.2023 12.00 Noon
3	Online RC Tender No.E911/PIP/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, Dt.05.01.2023- Micropipette (10-100µl) (1504) & Micropipette (100-1000µl) (1629) - Rs.5,725/-	13.01.2023 to 14.02.2023	24.01.2023 11.00 AM	15.02.2023 11.00 AM	15.02.2023 12.00 Noon
4	RC Tender No.912/Biometric/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, Dt.05.01.2023- Hiring service agency for supply, installation and maintenance of Aadhar enables Biometric devices in various Govt. Medical Institutions- Rs.5,725/-	13.01.2023 to 14.02.2023	24.01.2023 11.30 AM	15.02.2023 11.00 AM	15.02.2023 12.00 Noon
5	Online Tender No.E913/VEH/DME/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, Dt.05.01.2023- Mobile Blood Collection Vehicle with Fabrication and Equipment (1) – Rs.3,435/-	13.01.2023 to 01.02.2023	20.01.2023 11.00 AM	02.02.2023 11.00 AM	02.02.2023 12.00 Noon

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
DIPR/152/TENDER/2023 General Manager (Equipment)
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.:-ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-4586 Date: 03.01.2023
NIB No.:-PWD2223A3540
Notice Inviting Bid No. 21/2022-23
Bids for 10 No. Works are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM on Wednesday 25 January 2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http:eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http:sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3834.40 Lacs.
UBN No.:-PWD2223WSOB13996 to 14002, 14004 to 14005 & PWD2223WLOB14003.
(Vikas Dixit)
Additional Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/123 PWD, Zone, Ajmer

INBRIEF

Cultural event of 26 northeast tribes begins on January 12

Parbung, a village located at the tri-junction of Manipur, Mizoram and Myanmar, has geared up for the first cultural festivity of 26 tribes of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam. Manipur Governor La Ganesan will inaugurate the three-day event on January 12. Speaking on the event, L. Fimate, chairman of its core panel, told *The Hindu* that the purpose of the function was to reaffirm the origin of at least the 26 tribes. "It is an attempt to remember our history, how we had originated from this place and how some of us migrated slowly."

Catholic church cemetery vandalised in Mumbai

Unidentified miscreants vandalised several crosses put atop a graveyard at a cemetery attached to St. Michael's Church in Mahim of Mumbai on Saturday. Pictures of the vandalised crosses went viral on social media. The Mumbai Police have started an investigation into the incident. Reacting to the incident, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) spokesperson Clyde Crasto said, "This act seems like a deliberate attempt to pressurise and disturb the peace-loving Catholic community in Mumbai."

'India should focus on democratising govt. data'

After proving its prowess in the field of software, India should strive to become a hub for software products, President Droupadi Murmu said on Saturday. While speaking at the 7th edition of Digital India Awards, Ms. Murmu said that there should be focus on democratising government data to help technology enthusiasts develop localised digital solutions. "We should leverage the prevailing policies and avail the ecosystem to position the country as a global powerhouse of software and hardware products by building made in India technology," she said. PTI

'Regulations not violated during GM mustard approval'

The Union Environment Ministry on Saturday rebutted the claims made by activists that statutory regulations were violated during the appraisal and approval of GM mustard in India, saying the product was conditionally cleared only after stakeholder consultation. The Coalition of GM-free India, a group of NGOs opposing genetically modified crops, on Friday alleged that no (independent) health expert ever participated in GM mustard appraisal. PTI

Dhami meets affected people in Joshimath, promises all possible support from govt.

CM asks officials to camp in the area from today; 11 more families evacuated from the 'danger zone'; senior seer files a PIL plea in SC demanding relief packages, says govt. neglected warnings

Ishita Mishra
CHAMOLI

On the ground: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami meets affected families during an inspection of the landslide-affected areas, in Joshimath on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Days after homes and buildings in Joshimath, seat of a monastery set up by Adi Sankara and gateway to the Badrinath temple, started developing deep cracks, *prima facie* due to land subsidence, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reached the revered town on Saturday to take the stock of the situation.

The Chief Minister said the government had been standing fully with the affected people. "It's the centre of our faith. At this time, there is a big challenge before all of us to save this oldest 'Jyotirmath' from natural calamity," he told officials.

When Madhvi Sati, 70, told the CM that her home, in which she had spent over five decades of her life was sinking, Mr. Dhami too could not hold back his tears. He hugged the elderly woman and assured her all possible help from the government. Mr. Dhami visited a rehabilitation centre to check the arrangements made by the district administration, apart from the homes in the "danger zone".

Survey on

The District Magistrate of Chamoli, Himanshu Khurana, said that after the completion of a survey in all wards, the shifting of affected families to alternative shelter buildings were being ensured.

Mr. Dhami also ordered the Secretary to Chief Minister, R. Meenakshi Sundaram, and Commissioner of the Garhwal Division, Sushil Kumar, to camp in Joshimath from Sunday.

Officials said as many as 603 houses had been damaged in nine wards of Joshimath town. The administration rehabilitated 11 more families on Saturday, with the number of families evacuated from the 'danger zone' rising to 55.

Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati, the present Sankaracharya of the Joshimath monastery, on Saturday filed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition in the Supreme Court, seeking relief packages for affected people. The senior seer alleged the government had neglected warnings over sinking homes in Joshimath for years, and now the situation had turned into a disaster.

Beads as 'bribe' in Arunachal Pradesh's cash-for-job scam

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Tadok, traditional beads of different shapes and colours, were recovered from those arrested, the police said

The cash-for-job scam in the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) has taken an ornamental turn.

Translucent and opaque beads of different shapes, colours and vintage were found in the possession of Taket Jerang, a former deputy controller of examination in the APPSC, and a few others accused of leaking the question papers for money.

"Our team faced a challenge in evaluating the local beads called *tadok* that were recovered from the arrested accused. Many candidates gave these beads in exchange for a favour from the accused," Anant Mittal, the Superintendent of Police of the Special Investigation Cell (SIC) of the State police, said.

Tadok is a term used by the Adi community and also means necklace made with colourful beads.

"We are not sure of the material these beads are made of but they have a notional value depending on size, colour and age. The evaluation of the cost of the beads is in process," Mr. Mittal told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

The older the beads, the more valuable they are, cultural conservationists in Arunachal Pradesh said. "Various tribes in our State used to have trade ties with Tibet from where most of the beads have come. Naturally, the older beads are more valuable since the markets are full of duplicates these days," said Katung Waghe, president of the Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh.

Most of the beads go into ornaments that are "very important" for marriages, festivals and other social occasions.

Some colours such as green and yellow have greater significance for certain communities, Mr. Waghe said.

The SIC had registered two cases – one specific to the examination to recruit assistant engineers (civil) in August 2022 and the other related to all exams since 2014 – and arrested a total of 57 people, many of them government officials.

Home Ministry seeks another six months to frame the rules of CAA

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

This is the seventh such extension sought by the Ministry to frame the rules of the CAA

The Union Home Ministry has sought another extension of six months to frame the rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) without which it cannot be implemented. This is the seventh such extension sought by the Ministry.

The Act, which was passed in 2019, fast tracks the citizenship of people from the Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Christian, Buddhist and Jain communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India before December 31, 2014 without any documents.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the Ministry sought an extension of six months from the subordinate committee on parliamentary legislation in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. While the Rajya Sabha committee accepted the Ministry's request to grant the extension till June 30, a reply from the Lok Sabha committee was awaited.

Earlier, the Ministry had informed the Rajya Sabha committee that it needed time till December 31, 2022 to frame the rules, while it sought time till January 9, 2023 from the Lok Sabha committee.

On November 24 last year, Home Minister Amit Shah said the rules were under construction and there were some delays due to the pandemic.

The Manual on Parliamentary Work says that if a Ministry is not able to frame the rules governing a law within six months after the law is passed, "it should seek extension of time from the Committee on Subordinate Legislation stating reasons for such extension".

The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and it received assent from the President the next day. The Ministry notified that the Act would come into force from January 10, 2020. However, the rules have not been notified.

Less than 1% of registered voters have downloaded digital voter ID, says EC

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A select few: The total number of people eligible to download an e-EPIC is only around 10% of the country's overall electoral base. PTI

Over 67 lakh voters have downloaded the digital voter ID, known as the electronic Electoral Photo ID Card (e-EPIC), from the time the document was made available until December 23, the Election Commission (EC) said on Monday in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query from *The Hindu*.

9.8 crore voters eligible

As about 9.8 crore voters are currently eligible to download an e-EPIC, the EC said in its RTI response, 6.8% of them downloaded the PDF document – this is equivalent to less than 1% of all registered voters in India, going by data released by the EC.

As of 2019, 91.2 crore people were registered to vote in India, meaning that the total number of people eligible to download an e-EPIC in the first place is only around 10% of the country's overall electoral base.

At some point in 2022, the ECI began to allow any voter to download an e-EPIC version of their Voter ID, as long as they had a unique mobile number registered on the rolls.

Most voters do not have a unique mobile number registered, the RTI response suggests. However, they can add their mobile numbers through the National Voters' Service Portal website and the Voter Helpline app, and once an application is approved, they become eligible to download their e-EPIC.

SUDOKU

			6		1		8	
							6	1
	4	6	3	2			5	
3					2		4	
9		7				8		5
	6		8					3
	2			9	5	1	3	
6	9							
	3		1		4			

No.SS5673 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	2	8	3	7	6	5	4
6	7	8	5	4	2	3	1	9
3	4	5	1	9	6	2	8	7
4	6	3	9	5	1	8	7	2
2	8	9	4	7	3	1	6	5
5	1	7	6	2	8	4	9	3
7	3	1	2	8	9	5	4	6
9	5	6	3	1	4	7	2	8
8	2	4	7	6	5	9	3	1

In Ganjam, caste groups dictate terms in family matters

Satyasundar Barik
BERHAMPUR

Rights breached: Dandeswar Nahak sits on a dharna in front of the office of the Ganjam collector in November 2022, seeking his intervention against the ostracisation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seven years on, Prabhanjan Pradhan, 38, a professor in a Mumbai college, has hardly received a guest back home at Purusottampur in Ganjam district of Odisha. His family has been ostracised by the All Odisha Banayat Odia Samaj (AOBOS), a Ganjam-based caste group, or *kula samaj*, as it is called locally.

His "fault" was that he chose to register his marriage, rather than let the samaj keep a record. The group also slapped a fine of ₹5,000 on him, which the professor refused to pay. Mr. Pradhan lodged a police complaint in the local police station, but nothing has come of this. "Why should my family suffer on the strength of an association that does not have any legal standing?" Mr. Pradhan asks, rhetorically.

There are more than a dozen caste groups in Ganjam district. They preside over marriage alliances, dictating dowry; make decisions on alimony in the case of a divorce; and impose penalty or issue notices of social isolation, if their orders are not followed. They have political affiliations, prey on fear, and operate on public money, strengthening their bases over 10 to 15 years.

In 2016, up to 39 social boycott diktats were issued by the AOBOS in the Polasara region comprising parts of Beguniapada, Polasara, Kabisuryanagar and Buguda of Ganjam district. The boycott orders were issued on the letterhead of the caste group.

Non-cooperation diktats are issued against both individuals and groups: "There are 50 to 60 individuals facing it (in the community affiliated to them), and about 25 families," said a former office-bearer of the Nikhila Utkala Alia Khandayat Samaj (NUAKS).

Regressive verdicts

"The adjudications of caste groups are medieval, feudal, and regressive," said Bhalachandra Shadangi, a social activist who has taken up many such issues with administration.

Caste groups maintain marriage registers documenting almost all weddings in their caste. Families need to fill a form that includes a list of household articles, details of the wedding feast and dowry. The wedding must take place within six months, or it stands "cancelled".

"Before the wedding, family members and the *kula samaj* office-bearers of the bridegroom's village usually go to bride's house. They 'approve' the negotiation (on dowry and customs) between the families," said Purnachandra Mohanty, former Chief Election Officer of NUAKS.

Mr. Mohanty said, "On the day of the wedding, the marriage papers are signed between the two families in the presence of caste representatives. Four copies of the papers are maintained at the village, regional, and district level offices of the association."

The NUAKS has office buildings in almost 400 villages and there are regional and district headquarter buildings too. "The MP and MLA funds (MLA Local Area Development Fund and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) have been received for construction of at least five to seven office buildings," said a former NUAKS office-bearer.

In case of a separation, the couple will have to apply to the offices. "The village, regional, and headquarter committees of the caste will first try to counsel them not to end the relationship," said Mr. Mohanty.

Last November, Dandeswar Nahak sat in a dharna in front of the office of the collector seeking the intervention of the administration: his family had been suffering social isolation since 2016. A few days after he was married, his wife left. He claims the NUAKS forced him to opt for a formal separation and fined him ₹1.5 lakh. When he didn't pay up, his family was expelled from the caste.

The Ganjam police admitted prevalence of such caste hegemony in the district.

"We are taking action whenever a written complaint reaches us. But, when a group of people decide not to visit a particular family or attend social functions, it is difficult to take action," said Satyabrata Bhoi, Inspector-General of Police (southern range).

PARIS

Thousands march in Paris in the memory of 2013 murder of Kurds

AFP

Thousands of demonstrators marched in central Paris on Saturday to pay tribute to three Kurdish activists murdered a decade ago. The march, an annual event since the killings on January 9, 2013, came two weeks after an eerily similar triple slaying on December 23 at the Kurdish Cultural Centre in Paris. AFP

KABUL

UN envoy, Afghan education chief hold talks over ban on women

AP

A top UN envoy met with the Taliban-led Afghan government's Higher Education Minister on Saturday to discuss the ban on women attending universities. Markus Potzel is the first international official to meet with Nida Mohammad Nadim since the ban was introduced last month. AP

TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader fires police chief four months into protests

AFP

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed on Saturday a new police chief, nearly four months into protests triggered by Mahsa Amini's death. Mr. Khamenei, who is the commander-in-chief of Iran's armed forces, appointed General Ahmad-Reza Radan to replace Hossein Ashtari. AFP

MANILA

Philippine President replaces military chief with retiring General

AP

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. cut short the term of the military chief of staff he appointed five months ago and replaced him with a retiring General without explaining the move. His office announced the replacement of Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro, who had received the highest military award for combat bravery. AP

After a protracted battle, McCarthy gets his hands on the Speaker's gavel

GOP leader takes the oath of office as U.S. House Speaker. After four days of gruelling ballots, McCarthy flips more than a dozen conservative holdouts to become supporters, including the chairman of the chamber's Freedom Caucus

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

15th time lucky: Kevin McCarthy bangs the Speaker's gavel after his victory at the House of Representatives on Saturday. REUTERS

Republican Kevin McCarthy was elected U.S. House Speaker on a historic post-midnight 15th ballot early on Saturday, overcoming holdouts from his own ranks and floor tensions that boiled over after a chaotic week that tested the new GOP majority's ability to govern.

"My father always told me, it's not how you start, it's how you finish," Mr. McCarthy told cheering fellow Republicans.

Eager to confront President Joe Biden and the Democrats, he promised subpoenas and investigations. "Now the hard work begins," the California Republican declared. He credited former President Donald Trump for standing with him and for making late calls "helping get those final votes."

Republicans roared in celebration when his victory was announced, chanting "U.S.A! U.S.A!"

Finally elected, Mr. McCarthy took the oath of office, and the House was finally able to swear in newly elected lawmakers who had been waiting all week for the chamber to formally open and the 2023-24 session to begin.

After four days of gruelling ballots, Mr. McCarthy flipped more than a dozen conservative holdouts to become supporters, including the chairman of the chamber's Freedom Caucus.

Missed by a whisker

He fell one vote short on the 14th ballot, and the chamber became raucous, unruly.

The tally was 216-212 with Democrats voting for leader Hakeem Jeffries, and six Republican holdouts to Mr. McCarthy simply voting present.

The night's stunning turn of events came after Mr. McCarthy agreed to many of the detractors' demands – including the reinstatement of a long-standing House rule that would allow any single member to call a vote to oust him from office.

Ceding control

Even as Mr. McCarthy secured the votes he needs, he will emerge as a weakened Speaker, having given away some powers and constantly under the threat of being booted by his detractors.

But he could also be emboldened as a survivor of one of the more brutal fights for the gavel in U.S. history. Not since the Civil War era has a Speaker's vote dragged through so many rounds of voting.

With two more protesters hanged in Iran, number of executions reaches four

Reuters

Unfair end: The two men who were executed for killing a member of the paramilitary force, attending a court hearing in Karaj. AFP

Iran hanged two men on Saturday for allegedly killing a member of the security forces during nationwide protests that followed the death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini on September 16.

The two men executed on Saturday had been convicted of killing a member of the Basij paramilitary force militia. Three others have been sentenced to death in the same case, while 11 received prison sentences.

"Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, principal perpetrators of the crime that led to the unjust martyrdom of Ruhollah Ajamian were hanged this morning," the judiciary said in a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency.

26 more in line

The latest executions bring to four the number of protesters known to have been executed in the aftermath of the unrest.

Amnesty International said last month that Iranian authorities are seeking the death penalty for at least 26 others in what it called "sham trials designed to intimidate protesters in the popular uprising that has rocked the country".

Russia says it is observing Ukraine ceasefire despite continued attacks by Kyiv

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Brief respite: Russian troops attend the Orthodox Christmas service in Kubinka outside Moscow on Saturday. AP

Moscow insisted on Saturday its Army was observing a ceasefire in Ukraine to mark the Orthodox Christmas despite artillery attacks by Kyiv troops.

"Despite the shelling of the armed forces of Ukraine of settlements and Russian positions, the implementation of the declared ceasefire will be continued," the Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The statement however added that over the past 24 hours Russian forces repelled a number of attacks by the Ukrainian army in eastern Ukraine and killed dozens of its troops.

AFP journalists in the town of Chasiv Yar south of the frontline city of Bakhmut on Saturday heard heavy artillery fire for much of Saturday morning.

On Saturday, the general staff of Ukraine's armed forces said that Russia launched one missile strike and fired 20 rounds from multiple rocket launchers over the past 24 hours.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had unilaterally ordered his forces to pause attacks for 36 hours for the Orthodox Christmas.

Ukraine has dismissed the halt – due to last until the end of Saturday (2100 GMT) – as a tactic by Russia to gain time to regroup its forces and bolster its defences following a series of battlefield setbacks.

Orthodox Christians observe Christmas on January 7.

China bans COVID policy critics from social media

Associated Press
BEIJING

China has suspended or closed the social media accounts of more than 1,000 critics of the government's policies on the COVID-19 outbreak, as the country moves to further open up.

The Sina Weibo social media platform said it had addressed 12,854 violations including attacks on experts, scholars and medical workers and issued temporary or permanent bans on 1,120 accounts.

The ruling Communist Party had largely relied on the medical community to justify its harsh lockdowns

The company "will continue to increase the investigation and cleanup of all kinds of illegal content, and create a harmonious and friendly community environment for the majority of users," Sina Weibo said.

One killed, dozens wounded in Myanmar prison riots, says junta

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

A prisoner was killed and more than 60 wounded after a riot broke out at a Myanmar prison west of Yangon, the junta said on Saturday.

Myanmar has been in chaos since Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government was toppled in a military coup in February 2021.

The riot at the prison in Pathein started after guards confiscated a mobile phone from an inmate on Thursday night and took disciplinary action, the junta said.

About 70 prisoners escaped from their cells and damaged property on Friday morning.

Local media described the dead inmate as a political prisoner and *BBC Burmese* said he was on terrorism charges.

Somalia says Al-Shabab extremists are seeking talks for the first time

Associated Press
MOGADISHU

Somalia's government claimed on Saturday that the Al-Shabab extremist group has for the first time asked to open negotiations, amid a military offensive the government has described as "total war." There was no immediate statement by Al-Shabab.

"Al-Shabab requested to open negotiations with the Somali government, but there are two groups within Al-Shabab," Deputy Defence Minister Abdifatah Kasim said. "The first part is foreigners, and the second part is local Somalis. Those locals have a chance to open up negotiations, but those foreigners who invaded our country have no right for talks. The only option is to return to where they are from."

THE HINDU GROUP

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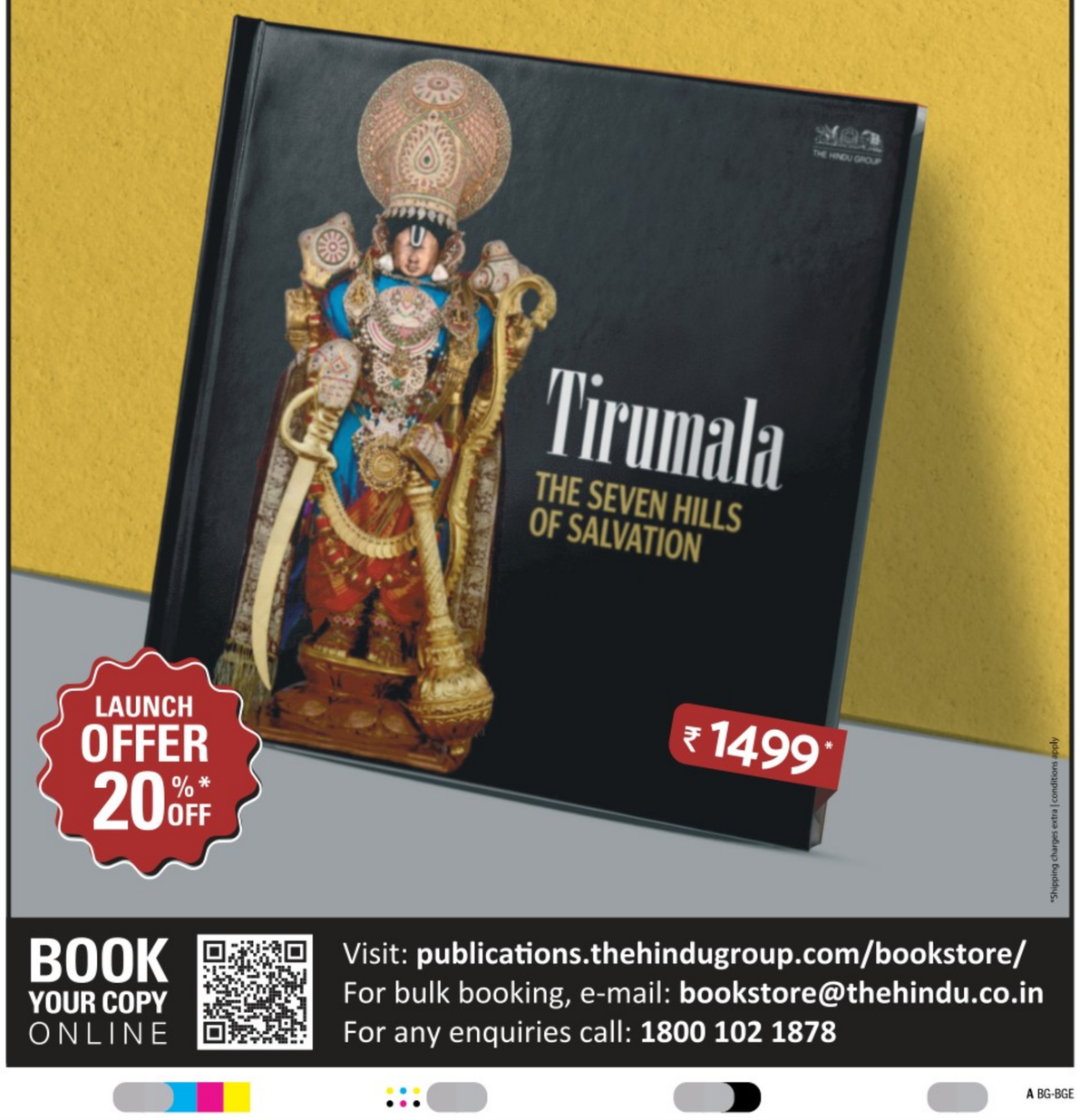
The coffee-table book features articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy on subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, Sri Ramanuja and his association with Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan, Krishnadeva Raya's Amuktha Malyada, the beauty of Sri Lakshmi Sahasram and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. The collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala.



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A clear picture of how mercury becomes a superconductor

Vasudevan Mukunth

In 1911, Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes discovered superconductivity in mercury. He found that at a very low temperature, called the threshold temperature, solid mercury offers no resistance to the flow of electric current.

The BCS theory

Scientists later classified mercury as a conventional superconductor because its superconductivity could be explained by the concepts of Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory.

While scientists have used the BCS theory to explain superconductivity in various materials, they have never fully understood how it operates in mercury – the oldest superconductor. A group of researchers from Italy recently set out to "fill this gap", as they wrote in their November 3 paper in the journal, *Physical Review B*.

The researchers used "state-of-the-art theoretical and computational approaches" and found that "all physical properties relevant for conventional superconductivity... are anomalous in some respect" in mercury.

In a testament to their strategy, they were able to work out a theoretical description for superconductivity in mercury that predicted its threshold temperature to within 2.5% of the observed value.

In BCS superconductors, vibrational energy released by the grid of atoms encourages electrons to pair up, forming so-called Cooper pairs. These Copper pairs can move like water in a stream, facing no resistance to their flow, below a threshold temperature.

By including certain factors that physicists had previously sidelined, the group's calculations led to a clearer picture of how superconductivity emerges in mercury. For example, when the researchers accounted for the relationship between an electron's spin and momentum, they could explain why mercury has such a low threshold temperature (around -270°C).

Coulomb repulsion

Similarly, the group found that one electron in each pair in mercury occupied a higher energy level than the other. This detail reportedly lowered the Coulomb repulsion (like charges repel) between them and nurtured superconductivity.

Thus, the group has explained how mercury becomes a superconductor below its threshold temperature.

Their methods and findings suggest that we could have missed similar anomalous effects in other materials, leading to previously undiscovered ones that can be exploited for new and better real-world applications.

Is XBB.1.5's superior binding causing higher transmissibility?

XBB.1.5 is the most transmissible variant that has been detected yet, and it has already spread to over 29 countries so far

R. Prasad

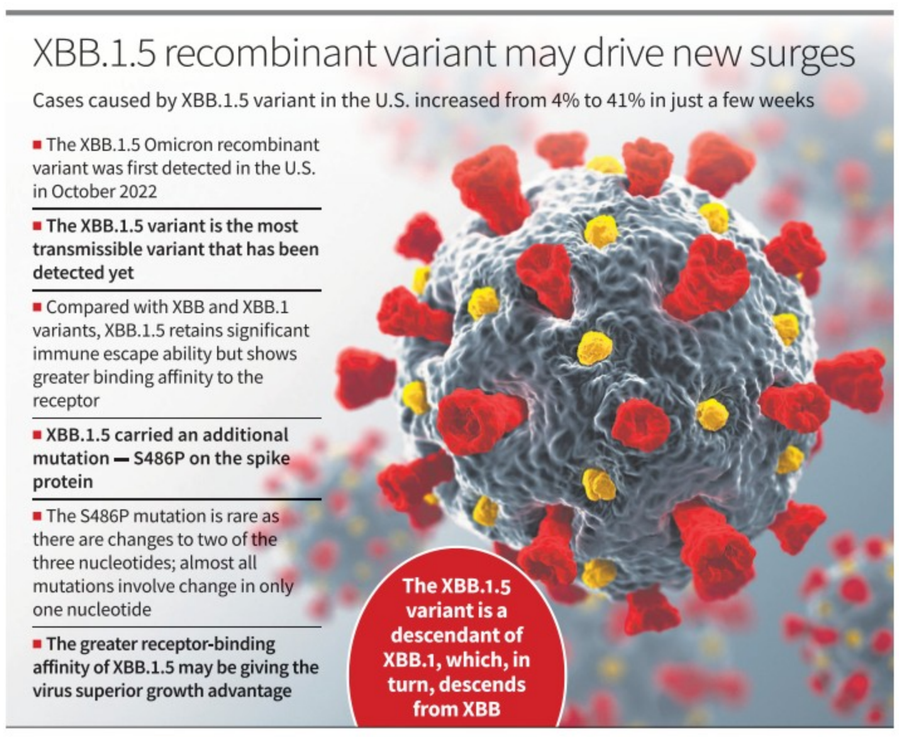
The XBB.1.5 Omicron recombinant variant that was first detected in the U.S. (New York and Connecticut) in late October 2022 has now spread to at least 29 countries. It is rapidly increasing in number to become the dominant variant in the U.S., particularly in the northeast part of the country.

The XBB.1.5 variant has demonstrated a "stunning increase" in prevalence in the U.S, and went from "4% of sequences to 40% in just a few weeks", Dr. Ashish Jha, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator tweeted on January 4.

The XBB.1.5 variant is a descendant of XBB.1, which, in turn, descends from XBB. The XBB variant evolved through recombination of two descendants of the earlier Omicron BA.2 variant. If XBB and XBB.1 already had high transmissibility and higher immune escape, the XBB.1.5 variant is even more transmissible while retaining significant immune escape ability.

A study posted on preprint server *BioRxiv*, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, found that both XBB.1 and XBB.1.5 "significantly" evaded convalescent plasma samples from BA.1, BA.5, and BF.7 breakthrough infections. However, XBB.1.5 displayed slightly weaker immune evasion capability compared with XBB.1.

"XBB.1.5 is the most transmissible variant that has been detected yet," Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, an epidemiologist and the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19 said during a press briefing on January 4. "The reason for the high transmissibility of XBB.1.5 are the mutations within this recombinant sub-variant of Omicron."


XBB.1.5 recombinant variant may drive new surges
Cases caused by XBB.1.5 variant in the U.S. increased from 4% to 41% in just a few weeks
The XBB.1.5 Omicron recombinant variant was first detected in the U.S. in October 2022
The XBB.1.5 variant is the most transmissible variant that has been detected yet
Compared with XBB and XBB.1 variants, XBB.1.5 retains significant immune escape ability but shows greater binding affinity to the receptor
XBB.1.5 carried an additional mutation — S486P on the spike protein
The S486P mutation is rare as there are changes to two of the three nucleotides; almost all mutations involve change in only one nucleotide
The greater receptor-binding affinity of XBB.1.5 may be giving the virus superior growth advantage
The XBB.1.5 variant is a descendant of XBB.1, which, in turn, descends from XBB

The higher transmissibility of XBB.1.5 will mean that it will be responsible for a larger fraction of COVID-19 cases in many countries and could also drive new surges. While it is too early to say if XBB.15 will have increased severity, there has been a sharp increase in hospitalisations in the U.S.

Not clear

"The underlying mechanism for such high transmissibility remains unclear," says Dr. Yunlong Cao from Peking University, Beijing, and one of the corresponding authors of the preprint. As per the authors, the XBB.1.5 variant carries an additional mutation compared with XBB.1 and is outcompeting BQ.1.1 and other XBB sub-lineages.

The additional mutation found on XBB.1.5 renders the virus with "substantially higher" binding affinity with the receptor compared with BQ.1.1 and XBB/XBB.1. And compared with XBB.1, the XBB.1.5 variant has "comparable" antibody evasion but displays distinct transmissibility suggesting that "enhanced receptor-binding affinity would indeed lead to higher growth advantages".

With stronger immune escape ability than BQ.1.1 but limited by weaker binding affinity, XBB and XBB.1 were recorded only in a few countries. In contrast, with enhanced receptor-binding affinity but comparable antibody evasion, the prevalence of XBB.1.5 demonstrates that receptor-binding affinity will affect the transmissibility, the authors write.

Rare mutation

The additional mutation seen on XBB.1.5 is the S486P on the spike protein. "It took a longer time for major variants to emerge with mutations at site 486 – BA.4/5 with F486V in spring 2022, and then XBB with F486S later in 2022," Dr. Jesse Bloom from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Washington tweeted.

The reason why the S486P mutation in XBB.1.5 is under spotlight is because of the rareness. "An amino acid is encoded by three nucleotides in a codon, and almost all mutations involve a change in just one nucleotide. Changes in two of the nucleotides are very rare," Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior scientist at the Delhi-based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) tells *The Hindu*.

"It's easy to understand why it took longer for variants to emerge at site 486; mutations at 486 reduce ACE2 [binding] affinity, so the benefit they provide in antibody escape comes at the cost to receptor binding," says Dr. Bloom. One-nucleotide change at the 486 site (F486S) was seen in XBB and XBB.1 variants, too. As expected, while the F486S mutation provided both XBB and XBB.1 variants with greater immune escape, the binding affinity was compromised.

The XBB.1.5 variant fixed the reduced binding affinity seen in XBB and XBB.1 by undergoing changes in two nucleotides to become S486P. "The S486P mutation [in XBB.1.5] only caused a slight reduction in immune evasion capability. However, the S486P mutation greatly enhanced ACE2 binding," Dr. Cao tweeted. "The fact that XBB.1.5 showed a much superior growth advantage than XBB.1 suggests that receptor-binding affinity does play a big role in SARS-CoV-2 spreading."

IISER Pune's new material removes pollutants from water

Sujit K. Ghosh
Sahel Fajal

Access to clean and drinkable water has now not only become a local problem but global as well. Water contamination is one of the world's leading causes of death and the problem is only getting worse. To tackle this, our team at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune came up with a custom-designed unique molecular sponge-like material – macro/microporous ionic organic framework – which can swiftly clean polluted water by soaking up sinister contaminants. The results were published recently in the journal, *Angewandte Chemie*.

Carcinogenic pollutants

Systematic studies have identified various organic (organic dyes, antibiotics, pesticides, etc.) as well as inorganic toxic pollutants such as iodides, oxo-pollutants like perrhenate that are carcinogenic in fresh water sources and can pose direct threat to humanity and living organisms.

In general, commonly utilised sorbent materials often trap these pollutants through ion-exchange strategy to purify water but suffer from poor kinetics and specificity. To mitigate this issue, our group prepared a newly engineered material called viologen-unit grafted organic-framework (iVOFm).

The material employs amalgamation of electrostatics driven ion-exchange combined with nanometer-sized macropores and specific binding sites for the targeted pollutants. The size and number of tunable macropores along with the strong electrostatic interaction of iVOFm can quickly remove various toxic pollutants from water.

To develop this unique material, our team employed a make-and-break strategy to grow a charged porous organic polymer (POP) as a sponge-like infinite framework on silica nanoparticles that is used as a template. Following this, the silica nanoparticles were strategically removed to create ordered hierarchical interconnected macro/microporosity throughout the material.

Effective: The new material showed ultrafast removal of sulfadimethoxine antibiotic from water almost completely. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Fast diffusion

This material features inherent cationic nature and macroporosity to allow fast diffusion of pollutants. When tested for a wide array of water pollutants, it showed ultrafast capture of all the pollutants – both organic and inorganic – with over 93% removal in just 30 seconds.

Among all the tested pollutants, the new material showed ultrafast removal of sulfadimethoxine antibiotic from water almost completely. Even in the presence of other co-existing anions such as nitrates, chloride, and bromide, the removal of sulfadimethoxine antibiotic was extremely high within a minute. The engineered material could remove sulfadimethoxine antibiotic with high efficiency when tested using different real water samples.

The fast pollutant trapping capacity is attributed to faster diffusion of pollutants through the ordered interconnected presence of macropores in the material. We also found this material to be very selective toward toxic pollutants in presence of co-existing ions present in waste water even at low concentration. It can also be used several times to clean contaminated water just like a bath sponge can be utilised to tackle multiple water spills.

This cationic compound is adaptable for sequestering various pollutants and is a possible solution to the water pollution problem. These results open up a new avenue for the creation of numerous sophisticated sorbent materials for practical water filtration.

(Sujit K. Ghosh is Professor at Department of Chemistry, IISER Pune. Sahel Fajal is a research scholar at Department of Chemistry, IISER Pune and the first author of the paper.)

SNAPSHOTS

Japan has lowest COVID cases than other developed nations

Despite daily new infections in Japan averaged at more than 2,00,000 per day in early August 2022, the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths per capita in Japan has been significantly lower than in peer countries. Japan has achieved this feat despite having the world's oldest population, being densely populated and strict lockdowns prohibited by its constitution. While other countries focused on disinfection, Japan emphasised on closed environments, crowded conditions and close-contact settings.

Floating solar power can help generate more electricity

Covering 10% of the world's hydropower reservoirs with 'floatovoltaics' would install electrical capacity equivalent to that provided by all electricity-generating fossil fuel plants in operation worldwide. Floating solar panels have benefits: the water's cooling effect makes them more efficient than land-based ones; they don't interfere with desert ecosystems; and they keep precious water from evaporating. Even though reservoirs are artificial ecosystems, they provide habitats for wildlife.

New structure to harvest untapped source of freshwater

A limitless supply of fresh water exists in the form of water vapour above Earth's oceans, yet remains untapped. A new study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign suggests harvesting oceanic water vapour as a solution to limited supplies of fresh water in various locations globally. The researchers evaluated 14 water-stressed locations for the feasibility of a hypothetical structure capable of capturing water vapour and condensing it into fresh water.

Question Corner

Alzheimer's disease

Is there a blood test to detect Alzheimer's before symptoms show up?

Generally, patients receive a diagnosis of Alzheimer's only after they exhibit well-known signs of the disease, such as memory loss. By that point, the best treatment options slow the progression of symptoms. But research has shown that the seeds of Alzheimer's are planted years earlier, long before the cognitive impairments surface that make a diagnosis possible. Those seeds are amyloid beta proteins that misfold and clump together, forming small aggregates called oligomers. Over time, through a process scientists are still trying to understand, those 'toxic' oligomers of amyloid beta are thought to develop into Alzheimer's.

A team led by researchers at the University of Washington has developed a laboratory test that can measure levels of amyloid beta oligomers in blood samples, says a release. The test did detect oligomers in the blood of 11 individuals from the control group. Essentially, for 10 individuals, SOBA had detected the toxic oligomers before symptoms surfaced.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Will shutting markets fix Pakistan's economy?

What is the crisis? Why has the government asked restaurants to shut shop early in the evening? Will these measures help?

Amit Baruah

The story so far:

In the face of an unrelenting financial crisis and dwindling foreign exchange reserves, the Pakistani government has come up with measures to save energy and reduce its energy bill. Markets and restaurants will close at 8.30 pm and 10 pm local time in a bid to save energy. This January 3 decision, intended to save about $274 million, has drawn flak from both market associations as well as restaurants. Also, the production of "inefficient" fans has been banned and government departments are to cut electricity use by 30%.

Why has the Pakistan government taken this decision to save energy now?

Pakistan's economic crisis could be reaching tipping point. In the year gone by, the country's foreign exchange reserves dwindled to a little over $9 billion, the rough equivalent of the country being able to pay for six weeks of imports. They hit a low of $5.56 billion in January 2023. Year-on-year inflation stood at 24.5% in 2022. For perishable food items, this number was 55.93%. Other than seeking bailouts, the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been able to do little to stabilise the economic situation, or give relief to the people. The latest decisions appear to be a knee-jerk reaction to growing pressure on the government to "do something".

> Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves hit a low of $5.56 billion in January 2023. Year-on-year inflation stood at 24.5% in 2022, even as a bailout from the IMF has been delayed

Currently, Mr. Sharif's administration is engaged in negotiations over the delayed release of $1.1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In 2019, Islamabad had secured a $6 billion bailout from the IMF. Addressing a press conference on January 4, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced that Saudi Arabia and China were all set to shore up Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves before the end of January.

Will the energy saving decisions achieve the desired results?

According to the *BBC*, defence minister Khawaja Asif says enforcement of the Energy Conservation Plan will save Pakistan around Rs. 62 billion ($274.3 million). After global energy prices rose last year due to the war in Ukraine, it put more pressure on the economy as Pakistan imports fuel for its power needs.

Traders have refused to close markets by 8.30 pm local time and restaurant associations have said the latest decisions taken by the Shehbaz Sharif government would ruin them. "The real crisis is inflation – the price of flour is around Rs. 140 per kg, chicken meat surpassed Rs. 800, sugar, rice, pulses and ghee and oil are above Rs. 400," Mohammad Farooq Chaudhry, president of the All Pakistan Restaurant Joint Action Committee, was quoted as saying at a press conference in Islamabad. Traders' representatives have said they would resort to protests and threatened to not close their shops at 8.30 pm. In an editorial, the *Dawn* said the energy saving announcements were "homoeopathic remedies" for a country gripped by a "potentially terminal disease".

Has Pakistan been in this boat before?

Soon after Pakistan conducted its nuclear tests in May 1998, the country's foreign exchange reserves, already under pressure, shrunk to just over $1.2 billion. The government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who now calls the shots in the country from London, froze all dollar accounts of ordinary Pakistanis, which had deposits of about $11 billion, as it feared a run on the banks. And then in a bizarre speech, in June 1998, Mr. Nawaz Sharif asked ordinary Pakistanis to give up drinking tea (as they spent Rs. 7 billion on it annually at the time) and rein in the consumption of ghee. The latest decisions appear to follow that line.

What happens now?

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's confidence that Saudi Arabia could be one of the countries that might help shore up Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves may come from the fact that the country's new Army chief, Gen. Asim Munir, is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia (and then the United Arab Emirates). In the past, Pakistan's army leaders have been crucial to ensuring that the Saudis come to the aid of the country at critical times.

However, such aid can't do much in fixing the direction of Pakistan's economy and the needs of a population of 220 million. In the long term, Pakistan will have to reduce its defence spending and look to having a long-term robust trade/energy relationship with all its neighbours, especially India, to fix the economy.

The escalation on the India-China border

What has the Australian Strategic Policy Institute found about the clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the Yangtse area of the Tawang region in Arunachal Pradesh? What does satellite imagery show?

Nathan Ruser
Baani Grewal

The story so far:

On December 9, 2022, Indian and Chinese troops clashed in the Yangtse area in the Tawang region along the India-China border. The confrontation in Tawang was the most serious skirmish between the two sides since the Galwan Valley clash in 2020. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has found that the skirmish that took place in December was aided by new road infrastructure on the Chinese side, part of rapid infrastructure development by China along the border in this region allowing access to key locations on the Yangste plateau more easily than a year ago. Through satellite imagery, ASPI examines the terrain in which the clash took place along the India-China border, where tens of thousands of Indian and Chinese troops continue to be deployed.

Why Tawang?

Tawang is a strategically significant Indian territory wedged between China and Bhutan. The region's border with China is a part of the de facto but unsettled India-China border, known as the Line of Actual Control, or LAC. Within Tawang, the Yangtse plateau is important for both the Indian and Chinese militaries. With its peak at over 5,700 metres above sea level, the plateau enables visibility of much of the region. Crucially, India's control of the ridgeline that makes up the LAC allows it to prevent Chinese overwatch of roads leading to the Sela Pass – a critical mountain pass that provides the only access in and out of Tawang. India is constructing an all-weather tunnel through the pass, due to be completed in 2023. However, all traffic in and out of the region along the road will still be visible from the Yangtse plateau.

What led to December 9?

India's defences along the plateau consist of a network of six frontline outposts along the LAC. They are supplied by a forward base about 1.5 kilometres from the LAC that appears to be approximately battalion sized. In addition to this forward base, there are more significant basings of Indian forces in valleys below the plateau (see Image 1).

Although Indian forces occupy a commanding position along the ridgeline, it is not impregnable. The access roads leading from the larger Indian bases are extremely steep dirt tracks. Satellite imagery shows that these roads are already suffering from erosion and landslides due to their steep grade, environmental conditions and relatively poor construction. While China's positions are lower on the plateau, it has invested more heavily than the Indian military in building new roads and other infrastructure over the past year (see Image 2).

Several key access roads have been upgraded and a sealed road has been constructed that leads from Tangwu New Village to within 150 metres of the LAC ridgeline, enhancing China's ability to send People's Liberation Army troops directly to the LAC. There is also a small PLA camp at the end of this road. It was the construction of this new road that enabled Chinese troops to surge upwards to Indian positions during the December 9 skirmish (See images 3 and 4).

Why is there an infrastructure race?

The skirmish that took place between Chinese and Indian troops on December 9 on the Yangtse plateau was aided by this new infrastructure development. Strategically, China has compensated for its tactical disadvantage with the ability to deploy land forces rapidly into the area. In small skirmishes, the PLA remains at a disadvantage because more Indian troops are situated on the commanding ridgeline that makes up the LAC. But in a more significant conflict, the durable transport infrastructure and associated surge capability that the PLA has developed could prove decisive, especially in contrast to the less reliable access roads that Indian troops would be required to use. Recent developments around Galwan and Pangong-Tso have shown that where there is the political will, tense situations along the LAC can be disengaged with the involvement of both sides. In these areas, successful redeployment to positions back from the LAC has greatly reduced the risk of conflict.

Unfortunately, on the Yangtse plateau and the eastern sector of the India-China border, the opposite is occurring. The December 9 clash is part of a pattern of Chinese troops continuing to attempt to change the status-quo along the LAC. Since our research was published, media reports have revealed the clash on December 9 is only the latest of a series of clashes in the region which have increased in frequency since 2021 (See Image 5).

This intrusion, and previous clashes – which the Indian government claims the Chinese troops provoked – likely served to further normalise the presence of Chinese troops immediately adjacent to the LAC. This is a goal that the PLA appears to be working towards across the border and is part of China's long-term strategy. By engaging in such an intrusion, the PLA is able to strategically position any 'retreat' to a higher location on the plateau. More recently, Indian external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said satellite imagery provides a level of 'transparency' of China's attempts to change the status quo at the contested border. India's pace of infrastructure development in the northeastern State of Arunachal Pradesh where Tawang is located has also accelerated since the clash; Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated multiple infrastructure projects in the State, which he credited as the enabling factors behind Indian troops' success at stopping an intrusion at the border on December 9.

What lies ahead?

China's rapid infrastructure development along the border has created an escalation trap for India. It is difficult for India to respond to this new reality without being seen as escalating the situation. It is also difficult for it to unilaterally de-escalate without strategic concessions that would endanger its positions. India's response has been to increase its vigilance and readiness along the border, including surveillance. As large numbers of Indian and Chinese outposts continue to compete for strategic, operational and tactical advantage at the border – propelled by new infrastructure – it is important to pursue non-military and multilateral measures in parallel to reduce the risk of accidental escalation and to position these incidents as a significant threat to peace and order in the Indo-Pacific. As part of this, India should seek and receive support from the international community to call out China's provocative behaviour on the border. Regional governments must pay greater attention to clashes on the India-China border. Continued escalation, including the potential of more serious clashes along the LAC, could become a major driver for broader tensions in the Indo-Pacific.

The authors are analysts at ASPI.

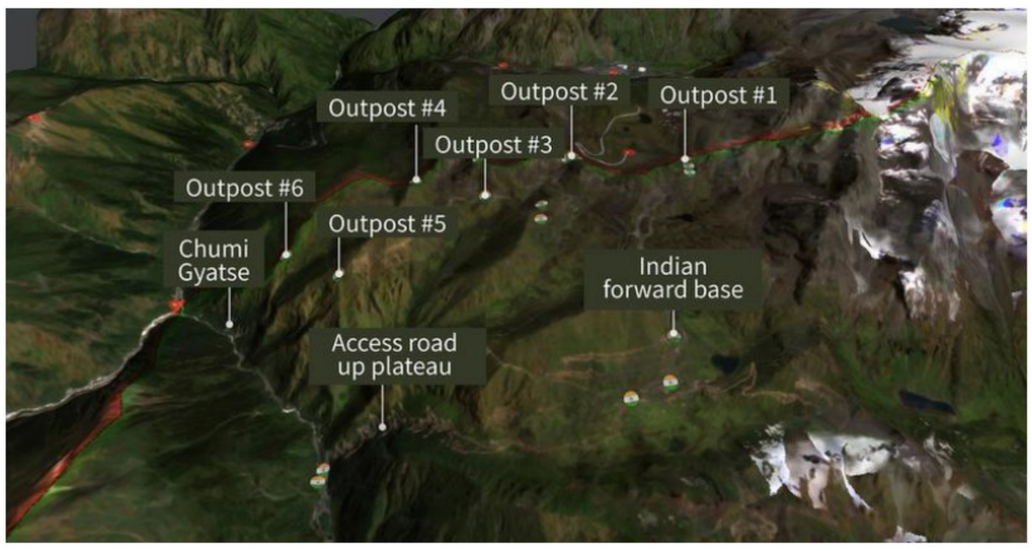


IMAGE 1: India's posts. ASPI AND PLANET LABS

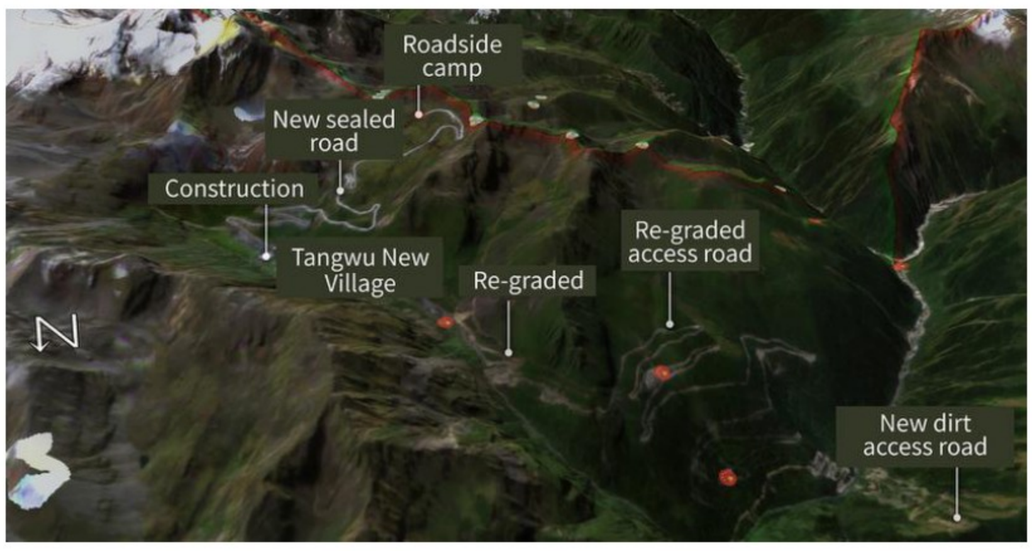


IMAGE 2: China's posts. ASPI AND PLANET LABS

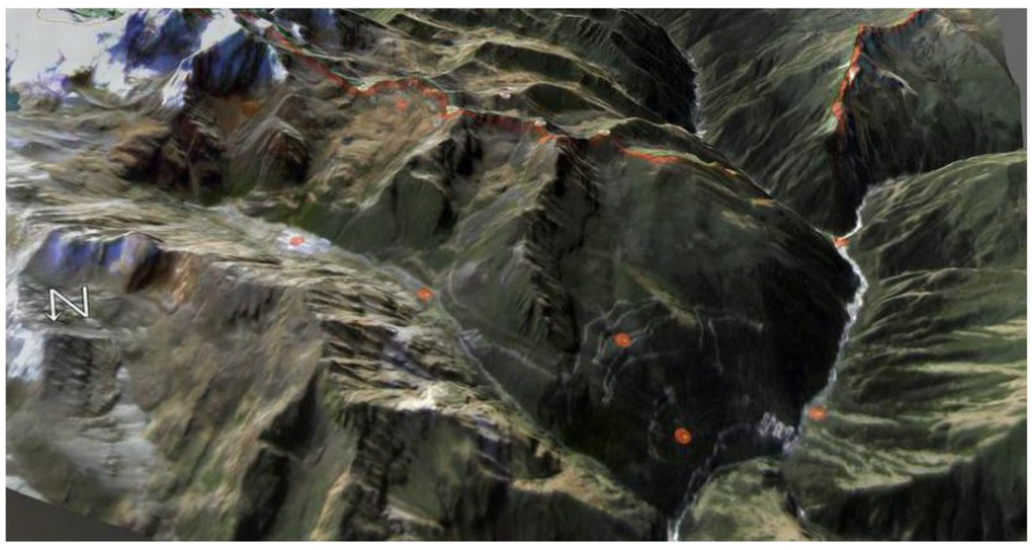


IMAGE 3: The area between Tangwu New Village to the LAC ridgeline **before** construction of the road. ASPI AND PLANET LABS

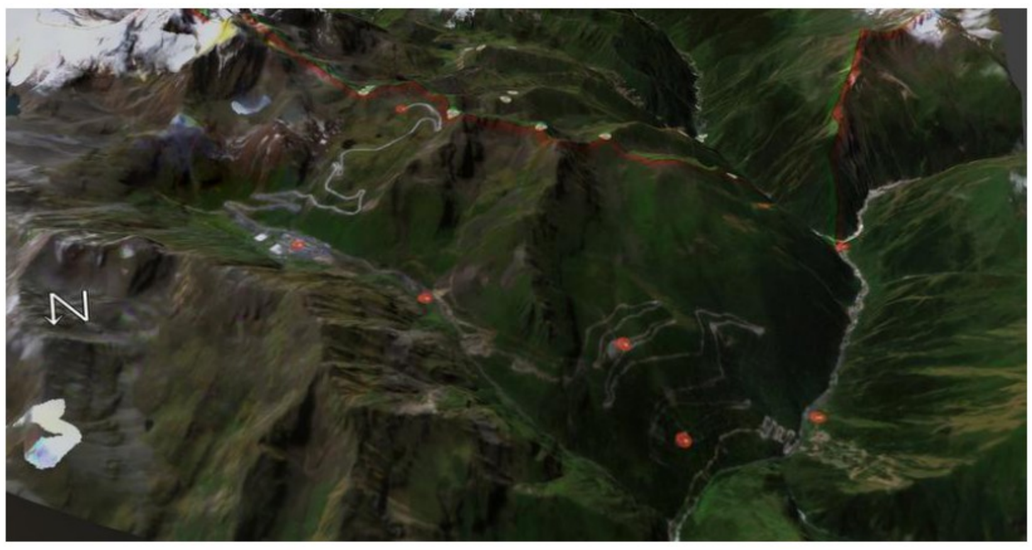


IMAGE 4: The **newly constructed road** which connects Tangwu New Village to LAC ridgeline. ASPI AND PLANET LABS

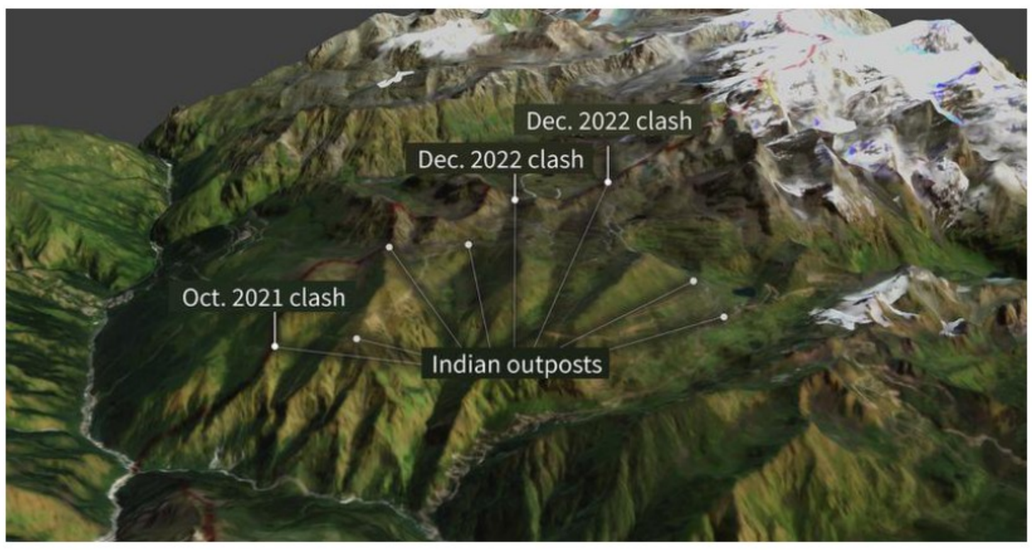


IMAGE 5: The series of clashes which have taken place in the region. ASPI AND PLANET LABS

PROFILES

An Alliance fraught with challenges

Tamil National Alliance

Despite electoral losses and brickbats from rival parties and critics, the TNA keeps pushing for a political solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic question within the framework of a 'united, undivided, indivisible' country

Meera Srinivasan

For most of its two decade-existence, Sri Lanka's Tamil National Alliance (TNA) has been engaged in talks with the southern Sinhalese leadership, to negotiate a durable solution to the island nation's lingering national question.

It has sought every opportunity that came its way, braving disappointment and brickbats from rival Tamil parties and critics in the diaspora that viewed its optimism as misguided or at best, naïve.

Much of this optimism comes from the TNA's leader Rajavarothyam Sampanthan and his resolve for a political solution within the framework of a "united, undivided, indivisible" country. "We can't despair, we can't abandon things," Mr. Sampanthan told *The Hindu* in 2018, when the Alliance joined a Constitution drafting process initiated by the President Maithripala Sirisena-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe administration. The exercise was not completed.

The TNA is in talks again. This time with President Ranil Wickremesinghe who, in November 2022, appealed to all parties in Parliament to come together and solve the unresolved ethnic problem before February 4, 2023, when Sri Lanka marks its 75th year of independence.

The TNA has participated in three meetings with the President, through December 2022 and January 2023, and is not holding its breath. The Wickremesinghe government is yet to take concrete action on any of the three urgent issues put forward by the Alliance – regarding state and military occupation of Tamils' land in the north and east; Tamils detained for years under Sri Lanka's draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act; and truth and accountability to families of forcibly disappeared persons.

While the next round of talks is scheduled on January 10, where the framework of a political solution is to be discussed, the TNA has said it might "rethink" its decision to engage in talks, unless there is decisive action on Tamils' pressing concerns, according to Alliance spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran.

The TNA, which has 10 MPs in Sri Lanka's 225-member legislature, is currently a coalition of three parties – the chief constituent Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi (ITAK), or formerly the Federal Party; the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE); and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), both with histories of armed militancy.

The TNA was formed in 2001, in a bid to unify Tamil nationalists opposed to alliances with the main Sinhalese parties in the south. The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), in which the ITAK predominated, the All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC), the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the TELO, reached a working agreement. While the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) did not explicitly back the TNA, the unspoken understanding was that the Alliance would be the parliamentary or electoral wing of the Tamil nationalist cause as directed by the LTTE. The LTTE had established itself as the "sole representative" of Tamils by then, after wiping out other militant groups and dissenters over the years.

Tiger tag

In the south, the TNA was for long seen as the political proxy to the separatist LTTE. Hardliners in the Sinhala polity, including elected representatives, continue to resort to the slur while referring to TNA MPs, despite the TNA emphatically ruling out secession since the civil war ended in 2009.

For the TNA, on the other hand, a clean break from the LTTE has proved hard, given the organisation's lingering appeal among many Tamils experiencing the state's continuing discrimination and racist policies. While some in the TNA distance themselves from the LTTE and its politics, it is not uncommon for others to invoke the LTTE, especially on the campaign trail ahead of elections. But more broadly, the TNA has chosen the politics of engagement over boycott in the post-war years, and has dominated the Tamil nationalist political sphere with wide support in the north and east, despite changes in its composition in the last 21 years.

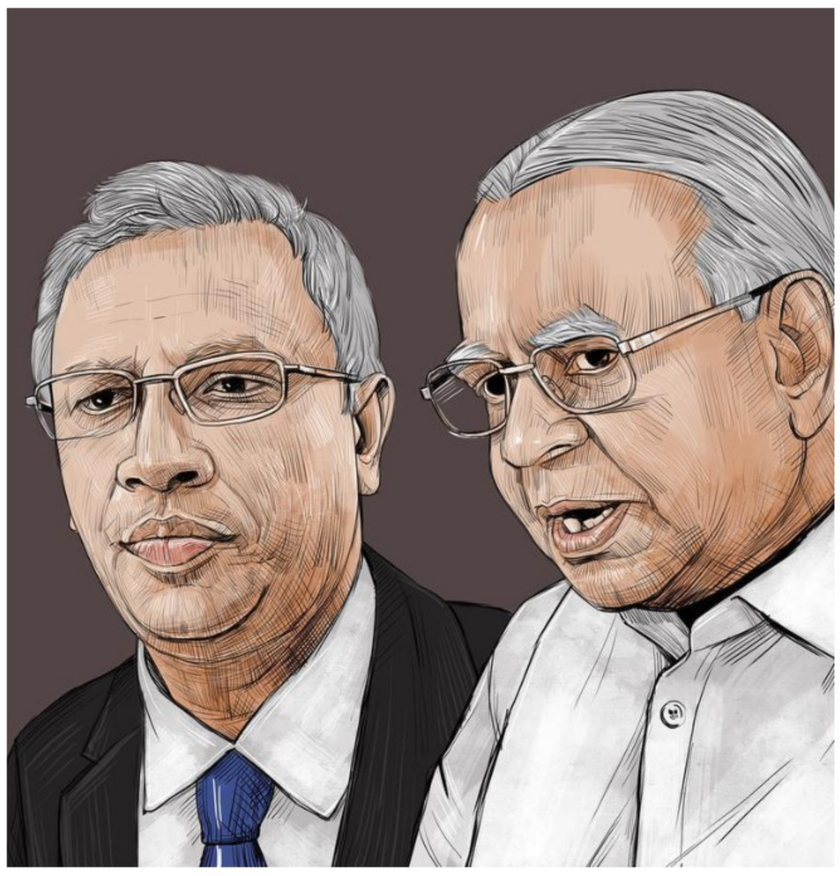


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Although a regional party, the TNA holds considerable sway in national elections, especially when there is a close contest between southern parties. It has adopted an "anyone but a Rajapaksa" approach in every national election – implicitly supporting common opposition candidate General (retired) Sarath Fonseka in 2010, Maithripala Sirisena in 2015, and Sajith Premadasa in 2019. Although Mr. Sirisena won with the support of Tamils and Muslims, his administration kept few of the many promises made to them. This proved politically costly for the TNA, which lost six seats in the 2020 general election. Despite its electoral losses, the TNA is still the single largest grouping in Parliament that represents a minority community. Western states and India see the TNA as the most credible voice for Tamil aspirations. The Alliance and its supporters abroad actively lobby foreign governments around resolutions on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, although critics accuse the TNA of privileging a constitutional settlement over war-time accountability in the domestic sphere.

Following years in oppositional politics, the TNA won a rare chance to govern for the first time in 2013, after handsomely winning the historic Northern Provincial Council elections. However, the Alliance and then Chief Minister C.V. Wigneswaran had little to show by way of substantial policy initiatives or economic revival in the war-affected Northern Province during their five year-term.

All the same, the TNA has remained a staunch advocate of the Provincial Council system, urging the government to hold the much-delayed elections. All nine of Sri Lanka's provincial councils – created following the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 as a step to devolve political power throughout the island – expired in 2018 and 2019. The TNA maintains that the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, flowing from the Accord, is an inadequate framework for meaningful power devolution, but nevertheless sees it as a useful "starting point", something that its arch-rival the Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) vehemently disagrees with.

Present and future

Once forged to overcome the fragmentation of Tamil nationalist politics, the TNA could not be more fractured today. Its members neither have a shared vision, nor speak in one voice. Some prominent TNA voices resort to public spats among themselves for individual political gains. Further, questions over the TNA's future loom, for it is Mr. Sampanthan who has held diverse actors together all this time. While spokesman and Jaffna MP Mr. Sumanthiran is widely seen as heir apparent, some within the Alliance resent him.

The 2020 polls saw the TNA's failings translate to gains for Tamil politicians aligned to the Rajapaksas. Rivals such as the TNPF, which currently has two MPs in Parliament, are also working to enlarge their footprint. While the TNA has been consistent in its pursuit of a political solution, there is no evidence of the Alliance consciously strengthening itself by democratising its structures, evolving a strategy for economic development of the north and east, including issues of other Tamil speaking minorities, or making way for more women. The TNA's future is uncertain, but Tamil politics has yet to find an alternative.

THE GIST

- The TNA was formed in 2001, in a bid to unify Tamil nationalists opposed to alliances with the main Sinhalese parties in the south
- While the LTTE did not explicitly back the TNA, the unspoken understanding was that the Alliance would be the parliamentary or electoral wing of the Tamil nationalist cause as directed by the LTTE
- After the civil war was over, the TNA has distanced itself from the LTTE and emphatically ruled out secession
- Currently, the TNA is a coalition of three parties — the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation

Xi's next Mandarin

Qin Gang

The new Foreign Minister's appointment has underlined President Xi Jinping's firm control of China's diplomatic bureaucracy

Ananth Krishnan

The announcement on December 30, 2022 of Qin Gang as China's next Foreign Minister has underlined the extent to which Chinese President Xi Jinping is closely shaping China's foreign policy as he starts his third term, including by deciding key diplomatic personnel appointments.

Mr. Qin (pronounced 'chin'), 56, has taken over from Wang Yi, 69, who was, in October, promoted to the Communist Party's 25-member Politburo. A veteran diplomat and formerly a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Qin's career has seen a meteoric rise ever since his appointment as Mr. Xi's chief protocol officer, shortly after he took over as President in 2013.

Indeed, there are many aspects to Mr. Qin's appointment that have broken the carefully followed precedent in China's diplomatic bureaucracy. Even the timing of the appointment itself, announced in end-December, was precedent-defying – Foreign Ministers, as well as other ministerial appointments, are usually announced in March at the meeting of the National People's Congress, or Parliament.

Mr. Qin, who started his diplomatic career in the Department of West European Affairs and subsequently had two postings in the U.K., first came to prominence as a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, where he largely adopted a smoother tone than some of his "wolf warrior" successors.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

In 2014, during Mr. Xi's second year as President, Mr. Qin was moved out from the Information Department, which he was heading at the time as top spokesperson, to take over the Protocol Department. As head of protocol, Mr. Qin was closely involved in arranging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2015 visit to China, including a long "walk and talk" with Mr. Xi at the famous Great Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an. Mr. Qin and Mr. Xi were seen having several close conversations during the visit.

Rapid promotions followed, first as an Assistant Foreign Minister in 2017 and then as one of the four Vice Foreign Ministers the following year, although he had by then never occupied an Ambassadorial role to any country. Despite not having that experience, Mr. Qin was sent by Mr. Xi in 2021 to Washington for his first Ambassadorial appointment – another first for China's diplomatic corps, and one that underlined Mr. Xi's trust in him – to steer what is for China its most important, and increasingly its most fractious, relationship.

Diplomatic priorities

Mr. Qin will now be tasked with shaping Mr. Xi's diplomatic agenda during his third five-year term, which began in October. In a December 26 article in *The National Interest*, published shortly before he left Washington, Mr. Qin provided some clues about his diplomatic priorities, which echoed closely with recent messages from Mr. Xi. Mr. Xi has described the current geopolitical moment as one with "changes unseen in a century" and where China is "moving to the centre stage", and has abandoned the more cautious "bide your time, hide your brightness" maxim of Deng Xiaoping.

Mr. Qin pushed back strongly against suggestions from many in the West that China under Mr. Xi was a "power poised to 'break the status quo'".

"The tension across the Taiwan Strait was not created by the Chinese mainland breaking the status quo, but by 'Taiwan independence' separatists and external forces continually challenging the status quo," he said. "In the case of the East China Sea, it was Japan who attempted to 'nationalise' Diaoyu Dao ten years ago, altering the 'status quo'... In the South China Sea, the status quo is that regional countries are consulting on a code of conduct that will lead to meaningful and effective rules for the region. As to the border issues between China and India, the status quo is that both sides are willing to ease the situation and jointly protect peace along their borders."

He also reiterated another of Mr. Xi's favoured messages – that the world was at a "crossroads" and countries were faced with choices to make between what Beijing has called "bloc politics", referring implicitly to the U.S. and its allies, and its own vision for the world. "If people choose to see the world from a 'democracy vs. authoritarianism' perspective," he wrote, "they will very likely usher in a world of division, competition, and conflict."

The high priest of the state

Patriarch Kirill

The head of Russian Orthodoxy, who supports the ongoing war in Ukraine, has brought the state and the Church closer

Stanly Johny

On January 5, two days ahead of the Russian Orthodox Christmas, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia called on "all parties" involved in the 10-month-old Ukraine war to establish a Christmas truce. Within hours, the Kremlin declared a unilateral ceasefire from Friday noon through Saturday midnight along the entire frontline. Whether the Kremlin listened to the Patriarch or the Patriarch called for what the Kremlin wanted, the incident, once again, showed the close relationship between the church and the officially secular state in Russia.

The day before Russian President Vladimir Putin announced his special military operation on February 24, 2022, Patriarch Kirill, 76, hailed Russian troops "as defenders of the fatherland". Weeks after the invasion began, he said the conflict had "metaphysical significance" for both Russians and Ukrainians. "We are talking about human salvation."

The Patriarch's comments were hardly surprising. Ever since his anointing as the Patriarch by the Holy Synod, a council of bishops, in 2009, he has largely taken positions that are aligned with the Kremlin's interests. He supported Russia's intervention in Syria in 2015. He also backed Russia's policies towards eastern Ukraine where the crisis broke out in 2014 after the elected government of Viktor Yanukovych was brought down by West-backed protesters.

This crisis cost the Russian Orthodox Church dearly. For centuries, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was officially linked to the Russian Church. Both countries trace the origins of Orthodoxy to the 10th century when eastern Christianity was introduced to Kievan Rus, which included parts of today's Ukraine and Russia. It became the official faith of the Russian Empire, but after the 1917 revolution, the Church lost its prominence.

Post-Soviet comeback

The Russian Orthodox Church would make a comeback to Russia's public life in the 1990s after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Moscow Patriarch continued to oversee matters related to faith in both Russia and Ukraine. But in 2019, five years after Crimea was annexed by Russia, the Ukraine Orthodox Church broke away from Moscow and became an autonomous entity, with the blessings of the Patriarch of Constantinople, leader of Eastern Orthodoxy.

Born in 1946, in Stalin's Russia, as Vladimir Gundyaev, the young Kirill grew up in a single-room apartment in Leningrad, now St. Petersburg. Like his father and grandfather, he too chose the path of priesthood. In 1970, he graduated from the Leningrad Seminary and took the name Kirill, after saint Cyril the Philosopher, a Byzantine theologian.

His grandfather was imprisoned and exiled several times by the communists for his church activities. Patriarch Kirill later said his grandfather, who told him not to be afraid of "anything but God", was his inspiration. He rose through the ranks of the Church during the Soviet days. There were times when he was critical of the communist leadership. But largely, he had a smooth relationship with Moscow.

After Kirill became the Patriarch in 2009, he tried to reform the church from within and build closer ties with the state. When Mr. Putin returned to presidency in 2012 after a four-year stint as Premier, the Patriarch found a strong ally in the Kremlin. In Mr. Putin's Russia, where roughly 70% of the people identify themselves as Orthodox Christians, the Church emerged as one of the pillars of the state ideology and the Patriarch became its high priest.

He was given high media attention and state support, while Orthodox values returned to the school syllabi. The Patriarch called Mr. Putin a "miracle" who "saved Russia from collapse". He repeatedly slammed the "decadent" West, while Mr. Putin sought to counter the West geopolitically.

Growing tensions between Ukraine and Russia, however, posed a great challenge for the Patriarch. His support for Russia has cost him millions of followers in Ukraine after the schism. The war has made the relationship between the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox Christians more complicated. But the Patriarch seems undeterred. "Russia is fighting for the future of all mankind," he said in his Christmas message on Saturday, aired on Russian state TV.

INBRIEF

Ola Electric announces 5 new colours for e-scooter S1 range

Ola Electric unveiled the Ola S1 e-scooter variant in five new colours. These are Marshmallow, Millennial Pink, Anthracite Grey, Midnight Blue and Matt Blac, taking total availability to 11 colours. The firm said in a statement it had brought back the 'Gerua' Edition in both the S1 and S1 Pro variants. Ola claimed it had emerged as India's top EV manufacturer in 2022 with cumulative sales surpassing 1,50,000 units.

Jaiprakash Associates defaults on ₹4,059 crore worth loans

Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL) has defaulted on loans worth ₹4,059 crore, comprising both the principal and interest. In a filing, JAL said the firm on December 31 defaulted on repayments of principal amount ₹1,713 crore and interest of ₹2,346 crore. The loans pertained to banks. JAL's Executive Chairman Manoj Gaur had said the company has been taking steps to reduce its debt and repay lenders. PTI

'U.S. FDA asks Biocon for more data on biosimilar Insulin-R'

Biotech firm Biocon said the U.S. FDA had issued a complete response letter (CRL) for Biocon Biologics's application for Insulin-R, a proposed biosimilar for diabetes treatment. The CRL cites additional data required in the Biologics License Application submission and an expectation of satisfactory implementation of a corrective and preventive action plan pertaining to the pre-approval inspection of the company's Bengaluru facilities in August last year, the company added. PTI

India looking at multilateral pacts that are fair, equitable for all: Goyal

Agreements must be balanced and must address sensitivities of participating countries and help us protect certain sectors that need protection, says Minister; 'India is competitive in labour-intensive sectors that would benefit from these pacts'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Negotiations for bilateral free trade agreements with several countries are "well on track" and India is also looking at some multilateral pacts that are fair and equitable for all member countries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

India had implemented a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UAE in May 2022 and on December 29, 2022, with Australia to boost bilateral trade and investments. The country is negotiating FTAs with other countries such as Canada, the U.K. And the European Union (EU).

"We are well on track in discussions with several other countries to look at bilateral trade agreements. We are looking at one or two multilateral trade agreements also where we believe we can get benefit," Mr. Goyal said while virtually addressing the 27th Wharton India Economic Forum. "It's essential that agreements are balanced and they are in the best interest of both the countries, they address the sensitivities of both the countries and help us protect certain sectors which we need to protect," the Minister added.

Not zero sum

Minister Goyal says India cannot make every product efficiently and that imports are important for those goods

- At the same time, India is competitive in labour-intensive areas such as textiles and leather which can benefit from pacts
- The government decided to talk to like-minded countries particularly those that have a rule-based trading order, which are transparent in their economic systems as India is
- On the RCEP that India decided against joining, the Minister says it was an unfair and unbalanced agreement

'Imports needed'

He said India could not make every product efficiently and that imports are important for those goods. On the other hand, India is competitive in several sectors such as labour-oriented areas like textiles, leather, footwear, and pharma and for that, these pacts would be beneficial.

Due to this, "we decided that we must talk to like-minded countries particularly countries which have a rule-based trading order, which are transparent in their economic systems as India is and enter into arrangements which are win-win for both the sides and which are fair, equitable and balanced," he said.

On the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that India decided not to join, he said it was an unfair and unbalanced agreement and one of the member countries (China) has a "very opaque" trading system.

Govt. receives multiple initial bids for sale of 61% stake in IDBI Bank

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has received multiple preliminary bids for the strategic sale of about 61% stake in IDBI Bank.

"Multiple Expressions of Interest received for the Strategic Disinvestment of Govt and LIC Stake in IDBI Bank," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

The potential bidders will now conduct due diligence before putting financial bids.

The government and LIC together are looking to sell 60.7% in IDBI Bank and had invited bids from potential buyers in October. The last date for submitting Expression of Interest (EoI) was set at December 16, which was later extended to January 7.

The government and the LIC hold 94.7% in the lender. The successful bidder will have to make an open offer for acquisition of 5.28% of public shareholding.

Criteria for bidders

Earlier, DIPAM had said the potential buyers should have a minimum net worth of ₹22,500 crore and report a net profit in three out of the last five years to qualify for the bid.

The successful bidder would be required to lock in at least 40% of the equity for five years from the date of acquisition.

Ant Group's founder Ma to cede control of fintech firm

Reuters
SHANGHAI/HONG KONG

Ant Group's founder Jack Ma will give up control of the Chinese fintech giant in an overhaul that seeks to draw a line under a regulatory crackdown that was triggered soon after its mammoth stock market debut was scuppered two years ago.

Ant's $37 billion IPO, which would have been the world's largest, was cancelled at the last minute in November 2020, leading to a forced restructuring of the financial technology firm and speculation the Chinese billionaire would have to cede control.

Jack Ma

While some analysts have said a relinquishing of control could clear the way for the company to revive its IPO, the changes announced by the group on Saturday, however, are likely to result in a further delay due to listing regulations.

China's A-share market requires firms to wait three years after a change in control to list. The wait is two years on Shanghai's STAR market, and one year in Hong Kong.

'Titan business grew 12% on festivals in Q3'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Leading jewellery and watchmaker Titan has recorded a 12% growth in its standalone business in the December quarter, led by 'healthy consumer demand' spurred by a vibrant festive season.

"The positive consumer sentiment helped all categories clock healthy double-digit growths despite a high base in the same period of last year," as per the quarterly update by Titan for Q3 FY23.

The Tata group firm also continued network expansion by adding 111 stores in October-December, taking the total number to 2,362 at the end of the quarter.

BMW Group unveils sedan at ₹1.7 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

BMW Group India has introduced the seventh generation, all-new BMW 7 series in India along with the first-ever BMW i7 in electric version.

With this, the 7 series will be available in petrol, diesel and electric powertrains, the firm said.

The BMW 740i M Sport is locally produced at the company's plant in Chennai and priced at ₹1.7 crore ex- showroom India.

The all-electric BMW i7 X Drive 60 would be imported as a completely built unit and priced at ₹1.95 crore ex- showroom .

The BMW 740i M Sports is produced at thecompany's plant in Chennai.

The diesel variant would be introduced later, the company said. Bookings for the cars have commenced and deliveries are scheduled from March.

First-time homebuyers are increasingly younger: Sundaram Home Finance MD

K. Bharat Kumar
CHENNAI

First-time home buyers are increasingly younger in age than earlier, said D. Lakshminarayanan, MD, Sundaram Home Finance.

"The proportion of homebuyers aged under 35 is going up as a proportion of the whole," Mr. Lakshminarayanan said in an interview.

The other continuing trend was of a set of people buying second homes, "which, in a way, shows affluence in society and the rise in the standard of living," he added.

D. Lakshminarayanan

"If a couple has two children, parents tend to want to leave behind at least one residence for each offspring. It's an emotional decision, not so much one driven by arithmetic alone."

Asked if the demand for homes and loans was not pent-up demand following easing of pandemic restrictions, he said, "A spike over a short period may have been attributed to pent-up demand, but not the numbers we have been seeing for over a year".

"2022 was a fantastic one for real estate as well as for home finance. On the back of two pandemic years, and given that the period preceding that was also difficult... one could not have asked for more. In fact, we are pushing past pre-pandemic levels – so, genuine growth is happening. The current recovery has been driven by real end-users, not investors. For that reason, this is far more sustainable."

Focus on small towns

The company's focus on small towns had also increased in recent times.

"Metros and tier 1 cities have become crowded. We had to look elsewhere and tier 2 and 3 towns presented growth opportunities. As a group we understood that market and hence it was a logical extension for us to expand into those markets. The business opportunity in small markets is quite large as is the amount of wealth of people in these geographies."

In the past quarter, the company entered the small-business loans segment.

On the new line of revenue, he said, "We forayed into small business loans segment in October and are looking at around ₹10 crore disbursements by March. This segment requires a far greater understanding and study of the customer than loans to the salaried class. We believe that this has potential to grow into about 10% of our overall business in 3-5 years. At the moment, it is more in a start-up phase."

'Govt. to focus more on micro credit for street vendors'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government will enhance its focus on providing micro-credit facility in the range of ₹3,000-5,000 to street vendors in 2023, with the help of digital technologies, Union IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

While speaking at Digital India Awards, Mr. Vaishnaw said the Centre had allocated about ₹52,000 crore for taking 4G and 5G services to all corners of the country for digitally connecting every citizen.

Sport

Mirra claims Wolf777 Bangalore Oaks

BENGALURU: Arjun Mangalorkar-trained Mirra (Antony Raj up) won the Wolf777 Bangalore Oaks, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Jan 7). The winner is owned by Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Antony Raj and Arjun Mangalorkar won three races each on the day.

Antony kept his filly confidently fifth position till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Mirra responded well to the reminders and overtook the leader La Reina in the last 250m to win.

1. INDIRA SAGAR PLATE (DIV. II): GOLD GRAY (Sai Kiran) 1, Ultimate Striker (G. Vivek) 2, Tiger Returns (Rayan) 3 and Silver Swift (Indrajeet S) 4. Hd, 2 and Snk. 1m, 07.32s. ₹96 (w), 20, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 46, FP: 317, Q: 77, Trinella: 1,486, Exacta: 10,891. Favourite: Ultimate Striker. Owners: Mr. B.K. Muralidhar & Mr. Dinesh Kumar K. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

2. SARDAR SAROVAR PLATE (DIV. II): CAPRIATI (Antony) 1, Baroness (Kiran Rai) 2, Beldona (Sai Kiran) 3 and Emma (Vaibhav) 4. 1-1/4, Nk and 1-1/2. 1m, 27.06s. ₹15 (w), 12, 80 and 17 (p), SHP: 286, THP: 46, FP: 586, Q: 445, Trinella: 3,269, Exacta: 15,216. Favourite: Capriati. Owner: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. MASTER KEY PLATE: STELLANTIS (Trevor) 1, Seeking The Stars (Zervan) 2, Invincible (Suraj) 3 and Crosswater (Antony) 4. 3-3/4, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 07.59s. ₹28 (w), 11, 12 and 10 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 83, FP: 325, Q: 163, Trinella: 398, Exacta: 1,052. Favourite: Invincible. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra & Mrs. Rina Mahindra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

Rewarding a champion: Shivkumar Kheny, chairman Turf Authorities of India & BTC, presenting The Wolf 777 Bangalore Oaks trophy to Mirra's owner Ameeta Mehra as trainer Arjun Mangalorkar and jockey Antony Raj look on. K. MURALI KUMAR

4. DHARMAPRAKASHA L.S. VENKAJI RAO MEMORIAL TROPHY: ANAKIN (S. Saqlain) 1, Queen Spirit (Zervan) 2, Artemis Ignacia (Sandesh) 3 and Striking Memory (G. Vivek) 4. 1-1/4, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 13.35s. ₹122 (w), 24, 12 and 12 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 149, FP: 1,231, Q: 521, Trinella: 1,472, Exacta: 24,955. Favourite: Artemis Ignacia. Owners: Mr. N. Prem Kumar, Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda, Mr. Rakesh Kumar and Mr. V. Lokanath. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

5. CHIEF MINISTER'S TROPHY: SILVARIUS (Antony) 1, Speedster (Suraj) 2, Automatic (Srinath) 3. Not run: Karanveer. 7-1/4, 6-1/2. 2m, 05.20s. ₹33 (w), SHP: 24, FP: 52. Favourite: Speedster. Owners: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Datta Gupta & Mr. Shomenath Roy Chowdhury. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

6. WOLF777 BANGALORE OAKS: MIRRA (Speaking Of Which-Myrtlewood) Antony 1, La Reina (Planetaire-Firemiss) Neeraj 2, Philosophy (Speaking Of Which-Manifold) Sandesh 3 and Triple Wish (Planetaire-Fourpenny Lane) Srinath 4. Lnk, 7 and Snk. 2m, 33.23s. ₹32 (w), 14, 39 and 13 (p), SHP: 152, THP: 48, FP: 586, Q: 304, Trinella: 2,274, Exacta: 14,720. Favourite: Philosophy. Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

7. SARDAR SAROVAR PLATE (DIV. I): SANTORINO (L.A. Rozario) 1, Step To Destiny (Srinath) 2, Roman Power (Antony) 3 and Mystical Merkabah (Kiran Rai) 4. 1-1/2, 3 and 3-3/4. 1m, 25.80s. ₹17 (w), 14, 13 and 14 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 39, FP: 43, Q: 31, Trinella: 140, Exacta: 726. Favourite: Santorino. Owners: Mr. Santhosh G, Mr. Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. Nirmal Singh and Mr. Mohd. Javeed Ghatala. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

8. INDIRA SAGAR PLATE (DIV. I): CHISOX (L.A. Rozario) 1, Panama (B. Dharshan) 2, The Strength (Sai Kiran) 3 and Chain Of Thoughts (Darshan) 4. Shd, 2 and Lnk. 1m, 07.83s. ₹131 (w), 21, 19 and 19 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 43, FP: 1,603, Q: 650, Trinella: 25,335, Exacta: 22,776. Favourite: Chain Of Thoughts. Owners: Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah, Dr. C.N. Devayya, Mr. Abhishek Nagaraj and Mr. M. Sudheer Reddy. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

Jackpot: ₹75,645 (carried over); runner-up: 6,483 (five tkts.); treble (i): 3,215 (two tkts.); (ii): 550 (55 tkts.).

CFC rallies to hold JFC

ISL-9

Press Trust of India
JAMSHEDPUR

Chennaiyin FC (CFC) conceded twice before staging a second-half comeback against Jamshedpur FC (JFC) to seal a 2-2 draw in the Indian Super League on Saturday.

Ritwik Das found the net once in each half for the host, while Vincy Barretto and Petar Sliskovic slotted in for the former champion.

The results:

At Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC 2 (Ritwik Das 17, 57) drew with Chennaiyin FC 2 (Vincy Barretto 60, Petar Sliskovic 68).

At Bhubaneswar: Odisha 3 (Diego Mauricio 22, 53; Nanda Kumar 45+2) bt East Bengal 1 (Cleiton Silva 10).

Lovepreet and Gurdeep assert their supremacy

NATL. WEIGHTLIFTING

K. Keerthivasan
NAGERCOIL

SSCB's Lovepreet Singh and Gurdeep Singh of RSPB, bronze medallists at the Birmingham Commmonwealth Games last year, won golds in the men's 109kg and +109kg respectively at the National weightlifting championships here on Saturday.

Lovepreet lifted a total of 343 with a snatch effort of 155 and clean and jerk effort of 188 to finish first, edging out Avinash by 1kg.

While Avinash emerged first in snatch with a lift of 162, he had a clean & jerk of 180 for a total of 342.

Lovepreet, who holds the National record in all three categories, was not at all happy. "I should have done well. I was not fully fit as I had a swelling near my elbow while going for the second lift in snatch."

Lovepreet winning the 109kg gold. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Gurdeep, who holds all three National records like Lovepreet, chose not to take the second and third attempts in clean & jerk after lifting 205kg on the first. He had by then clinched the gold with a total of 365. Vipan Kumar (351) and S. Rudramayan (332) came second and third.

The results: 109kg: Men: 1. Lovepreet Singh 155, 188, 343; 2. Avinash (Pun) 162, 180, 342; 3. Pradeep Kumar Reddy (UP) 151, 181, 332. **Juniors:** 1. Akash Kaushal (MP) 136, 173, 309; 2. Gyanesh (Har) 137, 161, 298; 3. Bhola Singh 138, 159, 297.

+109kg: Men: 1. Gurdeep Singh (RSPB) 160, 205, 365; 2. Vipan Kumar 195, 195; 351; 3. S. Rudramayan (RSPB) 155, 177, 332. **Juniors:** 1. Paramvir Singh (Chd) 143, 176, 319; 2. Kesav Bissa (Raj) 128, 161, 289; 3. Navjot Singh Lal (CG) 125, 157, 282.

102kg: Men: Youth: 1. Paramvir Singh (Chd) 143, 176, 319; 2. Kesav Bissa (Raj) 128, 161, 289; 3. Mohit Rajput (Del) 120, 140, 260.

PUSHING FOR WIN

Cummins puts Australia in line for series sweep

Skipper Pat Cummins captured three for 29 in the Sydney Test to set the Australians up for a dramatic final day charge to complete a clean sweep in the three-match series.
The scores: Australia 475/4 decl. vs South Africa 149/6 in 59 overs (Temba Bavuma 35, Khaya Zondo 39, Pat Cummins 3/29).

PAINFUL

Alcaraz, Venus to miss Australian Open with injury

US Open champion and men's World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz and seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams will miss this year's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open due to injury. Alcaraz Tweeted on Friday he had injured his right leg in training. "It's tough, but I have to be optimistic, recover and look forward."

ROAD TO RECOVERY

Pant undergoes knee surgery for ligament tear

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who miraculously escaped a horrific car accident last week, has successfully undergone a knee surgery at a Mumbai hospital, BCCI sources said. "Rishabh Pant has successfully undergone a knee ligament surgery on Friday. He will be under observation," said a source.

UPSET VICTORY

Villarreal dents champion Real Madrid's hopes in La Liga

Real Madrid blew a chance to ramp up the pressure on La Liga leader Barcelona as it fell 2-1 at Villarreal on Saturday.
The results: Villarreal 2 (Pino 47, Moreno 63-pen) bt Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 60-pen);Elche 0 lost to Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 5); Valencia 0 lost to Cadiz 1 (Alcaraz 9).

Surya's mesmerising century headlines India's series win

The middle-order batter comes up with an unbeaten 112 off 51 deliveries, his third T20I hundred, to help the hosts set up a daunting target; Sri Lanka's chase derailed with the fall of three wickets in the first seven overs; visitors lose by 91 runs

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
RAJKOT

Suryakumar Yadav mesmerised the sell-out crowd at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium with a magical unbeaten 112 in the third and deciding T20I between India and Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

Suryakumar's power-hitting masterclass powered India to a comfortable 91-run win. India captured the series 2-1.

Sri Lanka's long wait for a maiden bi-lateral series win in India continues. The Lankans have featured in 25 bi-lateral series in this country, across formats, without success.

The visitor's quest to make history was crushed by the unstoppable force that is Suryakumar. The Mumbai batter pasted deliveries to all parts of the ground, taking India to a mammoth 228 for five.

Suryakumar got going with a swivelling pull for six over deep square-leg – a shot he had made his own. He later created a few maximums out of nothing - moving well outside off stump to ramp the ball towards fine-leg. Such was the extent of his shuffle that he tumbled and rolled over on the ground.

Spinners Maheesh Theeksana and Wanindu Hasaranga were not spared either. With the cover fielder inside the circle, Suryakumar targeted the area by taking one step outside leg and lofting his drives.

He reached his third T20I hundred in 45 balls, with a single to deep cover in the 19th over. A flat-batted six over extra-cover and a flicked four in the last over, bowled by Karunaratne, was the icing on the Suryakumar cake.

The panicking Sri Lankans erred by not attempting the slower balls or bouncers. One-drop Rahul Tripathi, playing his second T20I, provided the early sparks with an enterprising 16-ball 35. A couple of straight sixes off Karunaratne provided a glimpse of the talent that Tripathi brings to the table.

Shubman Gill (46, 36b, 2x4, 3x6) kept Suryakumar company for a 111-run third-wicket stand. Shubman took no chances to length deliveries, and only opened up when the bowlers overpitched.

Axar Patel provided the late fireworks with an unbeaten nine-ball 21.

Sri Lanka's chase was derailed when top-order batters Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis and Avishka Fernando fell within the space of eight deliveries. From 51 for three in 6.1 overs, Sri Lanka had a mountain to climb. With the required at 12 and increasing drastically, the middle and lower-order tried to force the pace and caved.

Left-arm speedster Arshdeep Singh, who bowled five no-balls in the previous encounter, did not overstep in his 2.4 overs. He was the most successful bowler with figures of three for 20.

The express Umran Malik (2/31) finished as the highest wicket-taker of the series with seven scalps.

Blazing away: Suryakumar's fireworks (7x4, 9x6) left the Sri Lankans stunned. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Ishan Kishan c Dhananjaya b Madushanka 1 *(2b)*, Shubman Gill b Hasaranga 46 *(36b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Rahul Tripathi c Madushanka b Karunaratne 35 *(16b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 112 *(51b, 7x4, 9x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Dhananjaya b Rajitha 4 *(4b)*, Deepak Hooda c Hasaranga b Madushanka 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel (not out) 21 *(9b, 4x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 228.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Kishan, 0.4 overs), 2-52 (Tripathi, 5.5), 3-163 (Gill, 14.4), 4-174 (Hardik, 15.5), 5-189 (Hooda, 16.4).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Madushanka 4-0-55-2, Rajitha 4-1-35-1, Theekshana 4-0-48-0, Karunaratne 4-0-52-1, Hasaranga 4-0-36-1.

SRI LANKA
Pathum Nissanka c Mavi b Arshdeep 15 *(17b, 3x4)*, Kusal Mendis c Umran b Axar 23 *(15b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Avishka Fernando c Arshdeep b Hardik 1 *(3b)*, Dhananjaya de Silva c Gill b Chahal 22 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Charith Asalanka c Mavi b Chahal 19 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Dasun Shanaka c Axar b Arshdeep 23 *(17b, 2x6)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c Hooda b Umran 9 *(8b, 1x4)*, Chamika Karunaratne lbw b Hardik 0 *(2b)*, Maheesh Theekshana b Umran 2 *(5b)*, Kasun Rajitha (not out) 9 *(4b, 2x4)*, Dilshan Madushanka b Arshdeep 1 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-11, nb-1): 13; Total (in 16.4 overs): 137

FALL OF WICKETS
1-44 (Mendis, 4.5), 2-44 (Nissanka, 5.3), 3-51 (Avishka, 6.1), 4-84 (Asalanka, 9.3), 5-96 (Dhananjaya, 11.2), 6-107 (Hasaranga, 12.6), 7-123 (Karunaratne, 14.3), 8-127 (Theekshana, 15.3), 9-135 (Shanaka, 16.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Hardik 4-0-30-2, Arshdeep 2.4-0-20-3, Mavi 1-0-6-0, Axar 3-0-19-1, Umran 3-0-31-2, Chahal 3-0-30-2.

Toss: India.
PoM: Surya; **PoS:** Axar. India won by 91 runs to clinch the series 2-1.
Next match: First ODI: *Jan. 10, Guwahati, 1.30 p.m.*

Chetan reappointed chief selector, Sharath roped in

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Chetan Sharma has been formally reappointed as the chairman of the BCCI's men's senior selection committee. He will be joined by four new colleagues, after the Board named a reconstituted panel. While Chetan (North Zone) is the only survivor from the previous panel, his new colleagues are Shiv Sundar Das (Central), Subroto Banerjee (East), Salil Ankola (West) and S. Sharath (South).

Chetan, being the "senior most Test cap" as prescribed in BCCI's rulebook, has continued to be the chief selector for the third year in succession.

Chetan Sharma. FILE PHOTO

Despite playing a majority of his 20 seasons in domestic cricket from his home team Orissa in East zone, Das was considered from the Central zone, having represented Vidarbha in 2011-12 and 2012-13. Since retiring from cricket, he has coached Odisha, India-A and India Women. He was the Punjab batting coach before his appointment as the selector.

Salil Ankola (one Test and 20 ODIs) and Subroto Banerjee (one Test and six ODIs), the former speedsters were expected entrants. While Ankola has been Mumbai's chief selector since 2020-21, Banerjee has been Arjun Tendulkar's bowling coach.

Sharath, the domestic stalwart from Tamil Nadu with 139 First Class appearances, is the only uncapped member of the committee. The stylish left-handed batter has been promoted from his role as the chief of the junior men's selection committee. Having also served as match referee and TN chief selector, Sharath will be expected to play a key role.

Sania Mirza to retire at Dubai tournament next month

Sania Mirza. AFP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sania Mirza has decided to draw curtains on her illustrious career at next month's Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship, a WTA 1000 event, beginning on February 19. The former doubles world No.1 made the announcement to the WTA.

Sania initially intended to hang up her racquet at the end of last season, but an elbow injury ruled her out of the US Open and forced her to stop playing in August 2022.

"I was going to stop right after the WTA Finals, because we were going to make the WTA Finals, but I tore my tendon in my elbow right before US Open so I had to pull out of everything," Sania told wtatennis.com. "And honestly, the person that I am, I like to do things on my own terms. So I don't want to be forced out by injury. So I've been training."

Netherlands cements European dominance

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Antagonistic atmosphere: Amidst tight security, Indian players exercise at the National Stadium, Lahore, in 1990. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

1990, Lahore (Feb. 12-23)
Co-founder Pakistan finally got to host the tournament and deservedly reached the title clash against the Netherlands in a repeat of the 1978 edition, but lost 1-3.

The Netherlands won its second world title, riding on a brace by Floris Jan Bovelander, in a consolidation of European supremacy. The Indians, having to come through the qualifiers, failed to win a single game and managed just one draw. Their only win in the competition was against Canada (2-1) in the classification match before ending up 10th. The security situation and open hostility made things worse for India.

Top three: Netherlands, Pakistan, Australia; **India:** 10th.

1994, Sydney (Nov. 23-Dec. 4)
A third World Cup final between Pakistan and Netherlands saw Pakistan take the honours on penalties after the score was 1-1 at the end of regulation time. It was the fourth and final title for Pakistan, the only one on artificial turf, making it the most successful team in World Cup history.

Pakistan finished on top of its group, its only loss coming to Australia before getting past Germany and Netherlands in the knockout matches. The Netherlands came through undefeated before falling 4-3 in the shootout. Pakistan rode on Player-of-the-Tournament Shahbaz Ahmed's brilliance.

Losses to Germany (1-2) and Netherlands (2-4) in the group stage saw India finishing third and out of the semifinals before defeating Argentina and England to finish a respectable fifth – compared to the previous few outings and the best performance for the team since its title triumph in 1975.

Top three: Pakistan, Holland, Australia; **India:** Fifth.

Come-from-behind victory gives Griekspoor maiden title

TATA OPEN

N. Sudarshan
PUNE

Tallon Griekspoor clinched his maiden ATP Tour singles title following an impressive come-from-behind victory over Benjamin Bonzi at the Tata Open Maharashtra here on Saturday. In a high-quality fare that lasted 2 hours and 17 minutes, the Dutchman won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 to become the first men's singles hard-court titlist from his country since Sjeng Schalken – the losing semifinalist to Pete Sampras at the 2002 US Open – in Stockholm in 2001.

"The first title means a lot," Griekspoor said. "It probably means a lot more to my parents and my two brothers who were watching back home. I am really proud of myself."

Much of the evening's tennis was fast and staccato. It was mostly one big serve followed by one crushing groundstroke, with both players almost always on the lookout for the point-ending shot. They only differed in their approaches to the net, with Griekspoor a tad more eager to follow his serve.

Griekspoor. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Griekspoor, who until the final had won 30 of his 31 service games, continued in the same vein in the opening set. But the run snapped in the 10th game when he missed four first serves and lost all four points as Bonzi pocketed the set 6-4. It took until the seventh game of the second for Griekspoor to have a good look at the Bonzi serve. That resulted in two breakpoints, but the Frenchman erased both.

The Bonzi serve was threatened again in the 11th game, but this time Griekspoor cracked it open, executing a stunning backhand lob to go up 6-5. Bonzi nearly broke back, but the World No. 95 strung together an ace, a backhand and a forehand winner to even the contest. A magical return game early in the third set put Griekspoor clearly on the ascendency. Two backhand winners, one down the line and one cross-court, and a superb sliding lob – more a lift – brought him within one point of a 2-1 lead. Bonzi obliged by double-faulting.

The World No. 60 didn't give up though, pressuring his opponent in the sixth game by getting to two breakpoints. But Griekspoor saved both, courtesy an inch-perfect charge to the net and a splendid low volley, to hold to 4-2. That was Bonzi's last stand and a comeback was truly beyond him.

Balaji-Jeevan duo finishes runner-up

Serving it up: Jeevan in action during the doubles final. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Nihit Sachdeva
PUNE

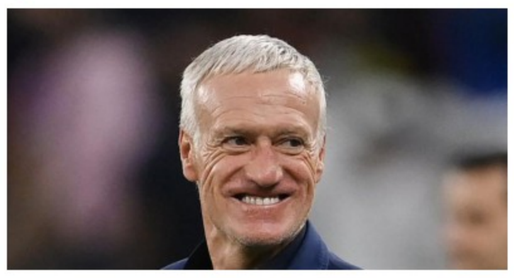
The dream run of the all-Indian pair of N. Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan at the Tata Open Maharashtra did not have a fairytale ending as it went down 4-6, 4-6 to fourth-seeded Belgians, Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen, in the final at the Balewadi Stadium on Saturday.

Balaji and Jeevan, who got into the draw as alternates after the Slovak-Serbian duo of Alex Molcan and Laslo Djere pulled out, conceded break of serves in the third game of both sets which eventually cost them their maiden tour-level final as a pair.

Nevertheless, Balaji and Jeevan earned 150 points each which brought them to the cusp of breaking into the top 100 of the ATP Doubles Rankings.

"Our short-term goal is to play the French Open. We are looking forward to making the cut for it. We had a target of making so many points in a certain number of weeks and this gives us a very good start," Balaji said in the post-match press conference.

INBRIEF



Deschamps to remain France coach until 2026 World Cup

Didier Deschamps said on Saturday he will remain France coach until the 2026 World Cup after leading the team to the final of the last two editions. Deschamps' contract expired after the World Cup in Qatar where defending champion France lost to Argentina in a penalty shootout after a thrilling final on December 18.

Delhi to meet Gujarat in the boys' final

Host Delhi will take on Gujarat in the boys' final of the ONGC 44th National sub-junior volleyball championships.

The results: Boys: Semifinals: Delhi bt Uttarakhand 25-22, 25-19, 17-25, 23-25, 15-10; Gujarat bt Uttar Pradesh 25-16, 21-25, 25-22, 25-19. **Girls: Semifinals:** UP bt Tamil Nadu 25-23, 25-19, 25-11; Rajasthan bt Haryana 25-18, 25-17, 25-21.

Sreenidi rides on Shayesteh's goal to defeat Kenkre

Sreenidi Deccan FC rode on Faysal Shayesteh's 19th minute strike to defeat Kenkre FC 1-0 in an I-League contest in Hyderabad on Satuday. Sreenidi is at the top with 22 points fom 10 matches while Kenkre is in 10th with 10 points.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4.30 a.m.

NBA: Sports 18-1, MTV (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday).

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday).

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Bolt is at a different level, there is a lot more to do to even get close to him, says Neeraj

The Olympic javelin champion, training in London, hopes to improve on his personal best and put the 90m-mark question to rest in new season

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Neeraj Chopra's stock has been at an all-time high ever since World Athletics named him the most written-about athlete in 2022, overtaking Usain Bolt. It skyrocketed further when track legend Michael Johnson recently shared a Neeraj warm-up video with well-deserved praise.

The 25-year-old, though, is not losing any sleep over it, preferring to concentrate on his off-season training at Loughborough University.

"My only resolution is to keep getting better, improve my personal best like I did in 2022 and hopefully put to rest all the questions on breaching the 90m mark," Neeraj said in an interaction on Saturday.

Bugbear

Mentioning the 90m mark was his way of getting over it; it has been a bugbear for the Olympic champion for a long time, more so since Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem managed it at the Commonwealth Games last year.

"My former coach (late) Gary Calvert used to say 'you are first an athlete and as such, you have to do everything perfectly – sprinting, lifting, throwing – and as a javelin thrower, speed during the run-up is very important'.

"That video (shared by Johnson) was from last year, before I went to Finland for competition.

"But, when such a legendary athlete praises you, it gives very good vibes.

" Maybe if I meet him somewhere and am in good shape, I might show him my sprinting skills in person!" he quipped.

As for overtaking Bolt, Neeraj is clear: The Jamaican is still the GOAT.

"To talk about an athlete and about his performance is very different.

Advantage

" I think I have the advantage of being from India where everyone is proud and happy if an Indian succeeds... But in terms of performance, Bolt and his achievements are at a very different level, there is a lot more to do to even get close to him," he asserted.

Neeraj's new season is likely to start only around May to pick up pace for the World Championships and ensure he is in peak form till the Asian Games to be held in late October but there will be no let-up in training.

Maintaining balance

"I will be working on increasing strength. But I won't go all out to bulk up, because then it will affect my speed and flexibility, which are my strong points.

"Every thrower has a different body structure and the aim is to try and keep a balance between all aspects," he said.

Single-minded commitment: Neeraj's only resolution for the new year is to keep getting better. INSTAGRAM/NEERAJ__CHOPRA

India squad for Asian Indoor athletics

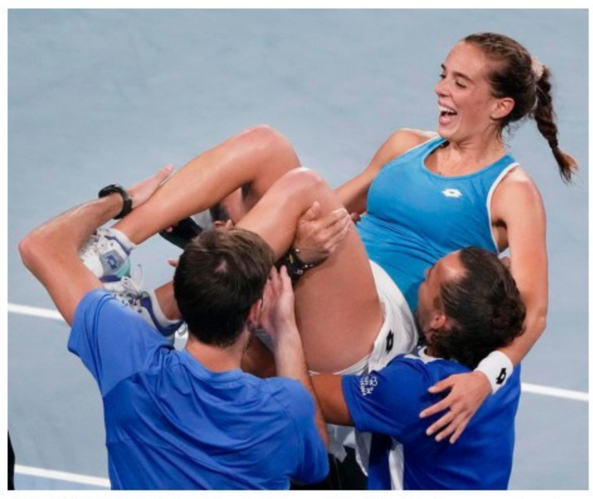
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India on Saturday named a 26-member Indian contingent for the 10th Asian Indoor Championships in Astana from Feb. 10 to 12.

The team: Men: Elakiya Dasan (60m), Amlan Borgohain (60m), Tejas Shirse (60m hurdles), Sarvesh Anil Kushare (High Jump), Aromal T (High Jump), Siva Subramaniam (Pole Vault), Prashant Singh Kanahiya (Pole Vault), Jeswin Aldrin (Long Jump), Muhammed Anees Yahiya (Long Jump), Praveen Chithravel (Triple Jump), Arun AB (Triple Jump), Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put), Karanveer Singh (Shot Put).

Women: Jyothi Yarraji (60m & 60m hurdles), Archana Suseentran (60m), Sapna Kumari (60m hurdles), Abhinaya Shetty (High Jump), Rosy Meena Paulraj (Pole Vault), Pavithra Venkatesh (Pole Vault), Shaili Singh (Long Jump), Nayana James (Long Jump), Sheena NV (Triple Jump), Poorva Hitesh Sawant (Triple Jump), Abha Khatua (Shot Put), Swapna Barman (Pentathlon), Sowmiya Murugan (Pentathlon).

Bronzetti powers Italy into the final



A chair for the champ! Lucia Bronzetti is feted by teammates after taking Italy into the final. AP

UNITED CUP

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Stefanos Tsitsipas battled from a set down to topple Matteo Berrettini here on Saturday but it was in vain as Lucia Bronzetti powered Italy into the final of the inaugural United Cup againstUnited States.

World No. 4 Tsitsipas came through a do-or-die clash 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-4 to earn a crucial point for his country. But it wasn't enough with Bronzetti pummelling Greece's Valentini Grammatikopoulou 6-2, 6-3 to give Italy an unassailable 3-1 lead. Italy meets USA in Sunday's final after it beat Poland 5-0.

The results (semifinals, on Saturday): United States bt Poland 5-0 {Taylor Fritz bt Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(5), 7-6(5); Madison Keys bt Magda Linette 6-4, 6-2; Pegula & Fritz bt Alicja Rosolska & Lukasz Kubot 6-7(5), 6-4, [10-6]}.
Italy bt Greece 4-1 {Matteo Berrettini lost to Stefanos Tsitsipas 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-4; Lucia Bronzetti bt Valentini Grammatikopoulou 6-2, 6-3; Camilla Rosatello & Andrea Vavassori 6-3, 4-6, [10-5]}.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Anvay hammers big unbeaten ton for Secretary's XI

BENGALURU: Anvay Dravid top-scored with an unbeaten 161 as Secretary's XI secured the first-innings lead against Mangalore in a drawn KSCA under-14 inter-zonal cricket tournament encounter.

The scores:

President's XI 238 in 61.3 overs (Arjun Aravind Potti 25, Milan Dhami 95, Khush Kothari 53, Gaurav Venkatesh 4/46, B.R. Rathan 5/53) & 122/5 in 37 overs (P. Rithesh 59, Udgeet S. Nandan 26 n.o., B.R. Rathan 3/40) drew with Vice President's XI 300/6 in 90 overs (Bilal Muhammad Basheer 140, Shankargouda Sidaraddi 66, Adhrit Rao 40).

Shimoga 150 in 73.4 overs (T.G. Guruprasad 81, Naitik Aswani 5/30, J. Sukruth 5/23) & 80/5 in 25 overs (M.C. Mourya 26, K. Hemanth Rao 27, S.P. Banesh 3/25) drew with Bangalore City XI 396/3 in 90 overs (Dhruv Santhosh Rao 98, G. Aravind 58, N.P. Vivek 155 n.o., Karan Raghavendra 32 n.o.).

Dharwad 104 in 37.2 overs (Aarav Ostwal 48, M.G. Kishor 5/23) & 314/3 decl. in 79 overs (Ayush M. Patil 200 n.o., Shubham R. Khot 29, Aarav Ostwal 40) drew with Tumkur 166 in 53.2 overs (B. Romith 42, A.A. Rohith 25, M. Kalp Vinayakiya 29, Abhishek 26 n.o., Prithvi Karajgi 3/33, Vishwesh S. Alagundagi 5/38) & 68/2 in 20 overs (B. Romith 32).

Mysore 291/9 decl. in 80 overs (Patela 41, Vyshak Nagaraj 45, Praneeth Shetty 91, A. Akshay Rangan 60, Mohammed Shamsheer 4/78) & 108/5 in 20.3 overs (Praneeth Shetty 56) drew with Raichur 181 in 71 overs (B. Basava Chetan 27, Kashif Ahmed Ali 100 n.o., Krushik Krishna 3/39).

Combined City XI 312 in 88.5 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 61, Harshit Pai 109, K. Gagan Sai 32, R. Monik 26, Aaryansinh Chavda 3/22) drew with Bangalore 234/8 in 90 overs (Shaurya Murali Ramanath 50, Aaryansinh Chavda 27, M. Shivu 30, Syaamantak Anirudh 58, Chilukuri Akhil Subhash 35, Harshit Pai 3/42).

Secretary's XI 371/4 in 90 overs (Rithvik Kulasekar 29, Aditya Jha 41, Anvay Dravid 161 n.o., D. Chiranth 109) drew with Mangalore 187/9 in 90 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 60, H.S. Surya Thribhuvan 34, C. Vihaan 50, Ashith Kumar Gowda 3/31, Nived Jeeju Sreenivas 5/31).

Veda Varshini wreaks havoc

V. Veda Varshini's four-wicket haul (4/0) was instrumental in Karnataka bowling Arunachal Pradesh out for a paltry 15 runs and going on to register a nine-wicket win in the BCCI under-15 women's one day trophy in Rajkot.

The scores:

Arunachal Pradesh 15 in 15.3 overs (Sakshi Munavalli 3/6, Rakshita Moondra 2/8, V. Veda Varshini 4/0) lost to Karnataka 16 for no loss in one over.

Biradar excels in Star Sport Club's win

S.K. Biradar's all-round effort (145 & 4/28) helped Star Sport Club, Nelamangala beat Ranji CC by 85 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fourth division league.

The scores: Young Challenging Cricketers 230 in 47.4 overs (Pranav R. Babu 66, S. Vishnu Viran 46, V. Saatwik 26, Ronith Iyengar 27, Rakesh Shetty 3/35) bt Indiranagar Cricketers 189 in 46.1 overs (Abhijith Jayaram 75, Vishnu G. Goudar 47, Prashant Hosamani 33, J. Mahendra Kumar 3/32).

Sangam CA 185 in 50 overs (Shoheb Pasha 27, K. Lakshmi Sagar 34, Benedict Raj Badiger 3/29) bt Vikram CC 113 in 31 overs (C. Deepak Reddy 44, Bharat B. Badiger 36, Nikhil Naik 6/30).

Wadiyar CC 139 in 28.5 overs (Imran Pasha 35, Aleem 54, Shivnarayan Sahani 3/22) lost to Vijaya CC, Malur 145/8 in 27.5 overs (D. Suraj 59 n.o., C. Kavin 7/53).

Star Sport Club, Nelamangala 349/5 in 50 overs (G. Ravi Kumar 75, S.K. Biradar 145, P. Varun 67, V. Channakeshavaswamy 27 n.o.) bt Ranji CC 264/8 in 50 overs (V.S. Surya 37, C.K. Manish 83, R. Anand Kumar 28, S. Srikanth 41 n.o., Praveen 28 n.o., S.K. Biradar 4/28).

Minerva CC 203 in 49.1 overs (Darshan Krishna 28, Rajath Sathish 33, M. Shiva Kumar 33, Md. Ismail Hussain 27, M. Harish Kumar 3/30) lost to Duleep Cricketers 205/4 in 44 overs (S. Santhosh 31, Naveen Shankara 79 n.o., Jayaprakash Casala 63).

Merchant CC (1) 275 in 49.4 overs (K.M. Pruthvi 29, S. Vinod 110, U.V. Vishruth Dev 36, H.S. Sathish Kumar 36, K. Ambresh 5/60, Rajath Nagvn 3/59) bt Palace Orchard CC 91 in 30.2 overs (Amar 33, Siddik Ahmed 3/18).

Prashanth nets winner

B. Prashanth's 64th minute strike was enough as Parikrma FC edgged DYES FC 1-0 in the BDFA A-division league on Friday.

Other results: B-div: Royals FC 2 (R. Saleem 55, Velu 68) bt Vehicles FC 0.

Sandeep HC finishes on top

Sandeep HC, with five points, won the KSHA B-division league hockey on Friday. BCYA-A, also on five points but with an inferior goal-difference (7 to 11), finished runner-up. Bellary HC was third with four points while Team Wildboar fourth with a solitary point from three matches.

INCRC: Divy Nandan, Sai Sanjay steal the limelight

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Gurugram's Divy Nandan and Salem lad Sai Sanjay notched double podium apiece with a win and a third place in the two MRF F2000 races that headlined the opening day of the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit here on Saturday.

Also tasting success was Nellore's 24-year old Viswas Vijayraj (DTS Racing) in the Formula LGB 1300 category, with a pole-to-flag effort.

Earlier, 10-times National champion Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) powered to another fluent win in the premier Indian Touring Cars category.

The results (Provisional, winners only):

MRF F2000 (Race-1, 8 laps): Divy Nandan (Gurugram) (12mins, 42.224secs).

Race-2 (10 laps): T. Sai Sanjay (16:01.632).

Indian Touring Cars (Race-1, 10 laps): Arjun Balu (Coimbatore, Race Concepts) (19:04.128).

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1, 10 laps): Gurunath Meiyyappan (Chennai, Race Concepts) (19:32.970).

Super Stock (Race-1, 9 laps): S. Narendran (Chennai, Redline Racing) (19:07.337).

Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1, 8 laps): Viswas Vijayraj (Nellore, DTS Racing) (15:06.989).

MRF Saloon Cars (Toyota Etios, Race-1, 8 laps): Justin Singh (Gurugram, Redline Racing) (16:34.046).

Race-2 (10 laps): Mathroo (20:55.583).

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